

## **TRUTH: GOD'S WORD OR MAN'S EXPERIENCE?**

1. Text: John 17:14-18
2. So much of the denominational world is dominated by the authority of emotions. Truth is measured by feelings. Add the impact of Eastern Religions and the New Age Movement to this and the result is almost overwhelming.
3. Where do we see this contrast with John 17:17?

### **I. In General Authority**

Christianity was meant to stir us emotionally. We are emotional beings.  
But John 17:17 points to the ultimate authority, absolute truth.  
There must be an objective standard or chaos reigns.  
Our society is now in rebellion against objective truth, especially as revealed in Scripture.

### **II. In Conversion**

1. "Born again Christians" usually present an emotional experience to prove their conversions.
2. Conversion then is experience-centered, not revelation-centered.
3. "I know I am saved because I feel it in my heart."
4. Paul: "I thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus." (Acts 26:9)
5. False feelings on conversion are one of Satan's greatest tools.

### **III. In Spirituality**

1. Idea: Highly spiritual persons are highly emotional in their beliefs and behavior.
2. Opposite misconception: If you aren't emotionally excited, you aren't really spiritual.
3. True spirituality is explained in Galatians 5:16-25. Spiritual people are active, productive people.
4. Modern false link: Holy Spirit and emotionalism
5. Don't confuse spirituality with a certain personality type.

### **IV. In Worship**

1. The basis of true worship is not emotionalism.
2. John 4:24 is to be in spirit (as God is spirit) and in truth (or according to His word).
3. The heart, mind, spirit, and will of the individual must be involved, but that alone does not make worship acceptable.
4. False standards: Boring or exciting
5. Acceptable worship depends on the personal individual's attitude and actions.

### **V. In Moral Standards**

1. Song: "How can it be wrong when it feels so right?"
2. Answer: Feelings don't make right. Proverbs 14:12 There is a way that seems right but is the way of death.
3. Acts 23:1 "I lived in all good conscience before God until this day."
4. Conscience is usually a faithful guide but not always.
5. "Situational ethics"
6. Absolute standards

Conclusions:

**A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings  
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