

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Feelings

"Mankind are governed more by their feelings than by reason." – Samuel Adams

"Consider the rights of others before your own feelings, and the feelings of others before your own rights." – John Wooden

"I have very strong feelings about how you lead your life. You always look ahead, you never look back." – Ann Richards

"Feelings are like chemicals, the more you analyze them the worse they smell." – Charles Kingsley

"One can be the master of what one does, but never of what one feels." – Gustave Flaubert

Feelings are a wonderful gift of God. And the fact that we have them, being made in the image of God, would mean that our God has them too. Does not the Bible say that God is love? (1 John 4:8,16). There are references to the anger of the Lord (Num. 11:10), His sorrow (Gen. 6:6), joy (Neh. 8:10), the ability to grieve (Eph. 4:30), etc.

But as wonderful as feelings and emotions are, we have to be careful that they don't get the better of us. Our hearts may lead us in a direction that is foreign to the will of God. The Proverb writer warns, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

Many years ago Debbie Boone made famous the song, "You Light Up My Life." In that song are the poisoned lyrics, "It can't be wrong, when it feels so right." Unfortunately, many a person has been led away from God by their feelings.

The prophet penned, "O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23). "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psa. 119:105). It is apparent that our feelings will lead us astray. We need the Word of God to help us to know the right way to live.

This is not to suggest that our feelings or emotions are not important. To the contrary, they complete us. God does not expect us to render obedience as mindless robots. He wants our love and obedience (Matt. 22:37). But what is important is that our intellect governs our emotions. Far too many let the emotions guide the intellect.

When together, intellect and feelings can be wonderful. "I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word" (Psa. 119:15-16).