

God Has Feelings Too

Feelings are a strong force! The feelings we look to achieve often direct us in the courses of action we take. If we want to feel strong in our resolve, we seek actions that will enhance that feeling. If we want to be uplifted, we will seek to place ourselves in environments that will make us feel good. To do so is a normal part of the human psyche.

Often people will allow their feelings to become the driving force in how they approach everything—relationships, their work, or life in general. Some will do anything to achieve a “good feeling.” This ethic in life is not only wrong, but it is very dangerous. When feelings outweigh what is right and wrong then trouble is going to be the outcome. When feelings are the chief motivator in answering the question of what ought I to do in any given circumstance, it places everything in the arena of subjectivity. It should be remembered that feelings can be faulty, and one must be very careful in determining the weight of feelings in view of clearly defined truth.

However feelings are not all bad. Even God has feelings. His feelings are seen in the outpouring of His deeds, and in His reactions to the actions of humanity. His feelings however, never outweigh truth, they are truth. He feels love for the world, John 3:16. That love caused Him to feel it necessary to allow His Son to die in order that relationship with the world would be possible, Hebrews 2:10.

The Lord also feels hate for some things. Solomon said, “There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers,” Proverbs 6:16-19.

In Scripture we find occasions when God had feelings of regret. When he destroyed the world by water in the days of Noah, Moses recorded, “And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart,” Genesis 6:6. Another time was when Saul was king in Israel. He repeatedly disappointed the Lord in his actions. In a very dark hour in Israel’s history the Lord revealed to Samuel the prophet, “‘I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.’ And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night,” 1 Samuel 15:11.

If events in history give us examples of how God feels when men do right or wrong, are we to suppose He is any different today? How does God feel when men seek to do His will? God felt pleased with Solomon when He offering to grant the young king any wish, and he chose wisdom, 1 Kings 3:9,10. The church at Thessalonica was encouraged to live how they ought to, and in so doing please God, 1 Thessalonians 4:1.

If anything is to be learned from the history of God’s interaction with man it has to be that as long as men were seeking to live for God, He was happy. Should it not also be as easily recognized that if we do not follow His will, as

spelled out in Scripture, He will be sad? Are there ways we use money that would make God sorry He gave us the money we have? For that matter, this question could be asked about the abuse of any blessing He has given. As in the days of Noah, could our actions cause God to be sorry He made us? Certainly!

When we stop to consider God's feelings, all the sudden our personal feelings take on a different sense of importance. Spiritual success/maturity is found when our feelings are being met by establishing what God's feelings are, and seeking to meet His approval. Now that feels GOOD!

How we feel causes us to do what we do. But remember, God has feelings too.

—Scott