

Purpose of Feelings

Make no mistake our overall life purpose must be through true faith -2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

*Feelings are wrong when it goes against Faith – i.e. a Christian goes with their feelings to marry an unbeliever and ignoring what God says about being unequally yoked (2 Co 6:14-16)

Feelings are a product of the flesh which we battle with - Rom 7:14-20 - 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18 For **I KNOW THAT NOTHING GOOD DWELLS IN ME, THAT IS, IN MY FLESH**; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. NASU

Feelings cater to the flesh in every way - Eph 2:3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts.

Consciously living in the world, avoid living for fleshly desires - 1 Peter 2:11-12 - 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **ABSTAIN FROM SINFUL DESIRES**, which war against your soul. (James 4:4-5, 1 John 2:15-17)

When our thoughts go against true faith, we have to confront it immediately. - 2 Cor 10:5 We **DEMOLISH arguments and every pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we **TAKE CAPTIVE every thought to make it obedient** to Christ.

Know that if **ANYTHING OTHER THAN FAITH** is “the reason”, including feelings, we sin - Rom 14:23 But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **EVERYTHING THAT DOES NOT COME FROM FAITH IS SIN**. * This means, if the action seems Godly, but the purpose is not Godly, we sin!

Our feelings can Never ever overrule Christ - Matt 10:37-38 - 37 "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is **not worthy of me**; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is **not worthy of me**; 38 and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is **not worthy of me**.

Before a feeling is accepted, it must be tested - 1 Thess 5:21-22 - 21 Test EVERYTHING. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.

Even when it comes to our romantic love, it must be based on God NOT feelings

Loving in a relationship is a command, not feeling - Eph 5:33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

EVERYTHING we do MUST be to please God only - Gal 6:7-8 - 7 **Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked**. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

What is the correct place for feelings in a Christian's life?

* Feelings are never meant to be the PRIMARY point of view! It lets us know “where we are at” vs. “where we need to Be.”



= The Bible



= Us



= feelings

**No matter what the thermostat says, it's what the cookbook says that the Turkey must be. In the same way no matter what the feelings say, it's what God says is what we should be. As the thermostat just shows where the Turkey is, feelings show where we are IN REFERENCE TO where we should be.

The rule all Christian's should follow concerning their feelings - Phil 2:3-4 - 3 **DO NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Being Spiritual, I should be in control of my body NOT the other way around - 1 Cor 9:26-27 - 26 Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. 27 No, I **BEAT MY BODY AND MAKE IT MY SLAVE** so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

If we truly accepted Christ, the flesh should be dead to us - Rom 8:10-13 -10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. →

→11 And **IF** the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies **through his Spirit**, who lives in you. 12 Therefore, brothers, **WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION** — but it is **not to the sinful nature, to live according to it**. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, **YOU WILL DIE**; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, **YOU WILL LIVE**,

When it comes to **Disputable Matters**, Feelings are God given attributes which allows everyone to have their own point of view. However, we must respect others' feelings concerning this- Rom 14:1-4 - **Accept him** whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on **DISPUTABLE MATTERS**. 2 One man's faith **ALLOWS HIM** to eat everything, but another man, whose **FAITH IS WEAK**, eats only vegetables. 3 The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

We also have to take into consideration others' feelings in order not to cause others to stumble. - Rom 14:13-14 - 13 Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, **make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way**. 14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, THEN FOR HIM it is unclean.

Christians must **always be the bigger person** Rom 14:15-16 - 15 If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. 16 **Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil**.

This is especially true for the husband with the wife - 1 Peter 3:7 **Husbands**, in the same way **be considerate as you live with your wives**, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. ***Weaker does not mean lesser**

The only one that can save us from our feelings is Jesus - Rom 7:21-25 - 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that **dwells in my members**. 24 **Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?** 25 Thanks be to God **through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. ESV

By growing in Grace, I am truly strengthened in weakness - 2 Cor 12:7-10 - 7 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a **THORN IN MY FLESH**, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS**." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, **SO THAT Christ's power may rest on me**. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in **weaknesses**, in **insults**, in **hardships**, in **persecutions**, in **difficulties**. For **WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG**.

It is essential to recognize that whatever the flesh desires is opposed to what is right. - Gal 5:16-17 - 16 So I say, **LIVE BY THE SPIRIT**, and **YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE SINFUL NATURE**. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. **They are in conflict with each other**, so that you do not do what you want.