

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Feelings

How much emotion can a Christian exhibit? The answer to that question has been debated for decades. On one extreme, some believe that Christians should essentially be stoic in how they approach anything in life. In their minds, stoicism is dignified and reverent—just the way God wants us to be. On the other extreme, there are Christians who believe that emotions should not only be exhibited whenever and wherever they please, but that emotions should guide their doctrinal beliefs. “If it feels good to me, then God must be pleased with what I am doing,” they conclude. Neither extreme seems to be the best representation

of biblical doctrine on the matter. Paul wrote in Ephesians that we should not sin when we are angry (Eph. 4:26). The Ethiopian eunuch went away rejoicing after he was baptized (Acts 8:39). Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus (John 11:35). What we see in these verses and in other passages is a full expression of emotion when the occasion calls for it. God did not make us to be unfeeling robots. When Peter preached the first gospel sermon, Scripture teaches that the crowd was “pierced to the heart,” not the head (Acts 2:37). Peter preached who Jesus was (the facts), then the people were

moved emotionally (the feelings).

Do not be quick to judge someone who is not wired like you are emotionally. Some people are reserved; others cry and laugh easily. Someone’s emotional state should not be the defining mark of their character, because emotional exhibitions are often misleading. The Bible states, “Even in laughter, the heart may be in pain... (Prov. 14:13).

Finally, making someone feel good is a great service to them. As the adage goes: “People will forget what you say, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

James Hayes

November 12, 2017

Issue 336

Items of Note:

- Our Christmas dinner will be December 9 at 4:00. Sign up on the back wall so we can get a count.
- We’ll have a Thanksgiving singing/devotional on November 22. Steven Hayes will lead singing.
- Sign up on the back wall for supplies for our Christmas bags for Hillcrest Nursing Home.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Paula Lee, and Beverly Nicholson.

Morning Sermon: “Justification” Singing Tonight at 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Billingsley, J. Buchanan

Pray: John Hayes

Pleasant View church of Christ
2500 Highway 49 East
P.O. Box 189
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30
A.M. Worship: 10:30
P.M. Worship: 6:00
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm
Phone: 924-9714

II Corinthians 4:16
“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.”

“I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.”

Galileo

“A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.”

Charles Spurgeon

Command, Example, Inference

The main reason that there are thousands of Christian denominations in American is because they do not all subscribe to the same standard of biblical interpretation. Every Christian—unfortunately—reads the Bible through various lenses. Some read it with scissors—cutting away major sections that they either do not understand or do not want to believe. Others read it with a highlighter—they try to conform to every verse, believing that every verse is equally applicable. And there are a multitude of other models and methods Christians use to interpret Scripture.

The method that has been used in churches of Christ for centuries is “command, example, inference.” I

believe it is the best method, but I also believe that it is often misunderstood and misapplied. Here is the basic structure:

(1). *Relevant commands.* Christians need to follow every command that applies to them. Jesus gave some commands to His apostles that obviously do not apply to us. Paul gave specific instructions to specific people at times. Those types of commands are not timeless for all Christians.

(2). *Relevant examples.* The first century Christians were not perfect. We do not follow their example because they were holier than we are. We follow what they did only when they were fulfilling what was taught by

Jesus and His apostles.

(3). *Necessary inference.* To follow relevant commands and relevant examples, we have to infer some things. For instance, in order to sing praises to God (a command), we need someone to choose a song and lead the song. Song leaders are not mentioned in the New Testament, but they are necessary in order for us to follow that command.

This model is not arbitrary; we see God’s people in both testaments following a similar structure in their pursuit of God’s will. Above all, may we humbly study Scripture knowing that it is God’s message to man.

James Hayes
