

Gospel Transformation of the Emotional Life

Brian Borgman

Biblical Motivations for Desiring Transformation

1. I want my life to glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31).
2. I want to glorify God by being conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29; Col. 3:10).
3. I want to glorify God by mortifying the deeds of the flesh, laying aside every sin, and the weight (Rom. 8:13; Heb. 12:1-2).
4. I want to be controlled by the Spirit and walk by the Spirit (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:22-25)
5. A sense of personal *shalom*, a good conscience, a life of happiness and satisfaction. Acts 24:16; Psa. 51:7-12;

The Kind of Transformation We Need: The Whole Person, Including the Emotions

- A. Emotions are a part of our humanity, an inherent part of our humanity, that are connected between body and soul.
 1. They reflect the image of God.
 2. Our emotions are indicators of what we believe and what we value. (Gauges, not guides)
 3. They express the inner man, the soul, the heart, and the mind (Prov. 13:12; 14:30; 16:24; 17:22)
 4. They influence motives and conduct – strongly influence.
 5. They are necessary for us to properly know and relate to others and most importantly, to God.
- B. There is a moral quality to our emotions.
 1. Our emotions are distorted; our emotions are out of harmony with our minds and wills.
 2. Our emotions can pollute our thinking, strain or break our relationships.
 3. Our emotions can go to extremes, they can lead us astray, they can twist our thinking, misshape our behavior.
 4. Our emotions as expressions of our valuations can be *disordered*.
- C. The Transformation of our Emotions
 1. The transforming power of the Gospel
Christological Transformation:
Incarnation/Death/Resurrection/Ascension/Redemption
 2. The Priority of Truth
Jn. 17:17; 1 Thess. 2:13

3. Right Gospel-thinking is critical in transforming the emotions
Rom. 12:2; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1-2

4. Right Gospel-beholding is transformational
 - a) Psa 115; 135
 - b) 2 Cor. 3:18

5. Right Gospel-community is transformational
Heb. 3:12-13; Prov. 27:17

6. Strategies