

Feelings or Obedience?

Feelings can be deceiving, obedience cannot be deceiving. Let me give you an example of feelings. I was sent to another city by my employer for some classes to upgrade my job expertise. This was a one week class, with a final exam on the last day. I went through the exam quickly and turned my papers in to the instructor. When the exam was completed by all of the students, and the instructor had graded all of the papers, he started returning the papers to us. I waited and waited thinking, when will I get my exam paper. The instructor handed me my exam paper next to the last one, out of about thirty students, the score that I saw nearly took my **breath** away, my **eyesight blurred**, the score was so low, a non-passing score. When I was answering the questions, I felt good about the answers, my **feelings** were good toward every answer, but I was wrong!

In the Old Testament, God tells his people over 23 times: “**obey my voice.**” There are no commands to go by ‘**your feelings.**’ The classic scripture is in 1 Sam.5:22 “**to obey is better than sacrifice..**”

The book of proverbs comes very close to using the word ‘**feel**’ in Proverbs 14:12 and Proverbs 16:25. “There is a way that seem (paw-naw) right unto a man.” The word “**seem**” carries the idea of ‘**at face value,**’ or ‘**on the surface everything seems fine** so we feel what I am doing is good. King Saul did what seemed good on the surface, **but it was wrong.** God had given him marching orders through Samuel. King Saul knew that Samuel was God’s prophet, for King Saul, his acts ended in death.

The congregation in Corinth was doing something at the Passover that was bringing weakness, sickness and death. Whatever was being practiced probably **felt good** to the Corinthians. Paul’s letter was to counter act the “**feel-good**’ practices with obedience to the Lord’s commands. Notice what is said in 1Cor.11:23 “**I have received of the Lord**”---**I delivered unto you ..**”

We can never pay or merit the Passover (Jesus Christ.) some want to **feel religious**, or be able to say ‘I did a lot tonight,’ those can be deceptive feelings. Sometimes we want to think about “**what I have done,** when the emphasis should be: ‘**what Jesus Christ has done**’ and that we are to obey his voice and not try to compete with Christ, that’s impossible. On the night of Christ’s betrayal , he emphasized the washing of the disciples feet, the bread, and the cup. These are all very important examples that we must follow. Then they sung a hymn and left the room. When we see **what Christ did, and what he gave** to the Apostle Paul, we can see that this is a short and to the point ceremony. The emphasis stays on what Christ did for us, not on what we are doing toward him. Jesus Christ separated the bread and the cup out of the meal,--- that is all we need to represent our Savior’s body and blood. **We must live with obedience and not feelings.**

~editor