

God Does Not Care How You Feel

Commentary for November 1, 2017 — ... When You Are Doing Evil

God communicates to each of us through His Word, both through His Son as the living Word, image, and likeness of God our Father, and through His written word, the Holy Scriptures. God fulfills His will through these expressions of Himself for our benefit. Every human being was created through Adam to ultimately become the expression, image, and likeness of God, just as Christ is now.

The title of this month's article is "God's Inspiration Made Clear" introduced by the "[November 1, 2017 Newsletter](#)," from two transcribed tapes. Together they show how God communicates to us through His written Word and how God and Christ established that inspiration through history, and how it was brought to us today. Consider this article an adjunct to Dr. Martin's book [Restoring the Original Bible](#). In His inspired Word, God tells us everything we need to know about Him. That knowledge comes through His Son, Christ Jesus, Hebrews 1:1–2, and also from His written word we learn His Gospel: God's plan of salvation for mankind, conveniently condensed for us by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

In this Commentary, I want to concentrate on believers. As believers in Christ, His resurrection and our salvation through Him, we are all babes in Christ and "little children." See my articles, "[God's Emotions](#)," "[You as a Child of God](#)," and "[Universal Salvation and Loving Your Enemies](#)" lest anyone thinks I do not believe God loves all children through Adam.

Does God care about us? Yes, He loves us exceedingly (John 3:16–17). Does God care about how we feel at any given moment? I do not think *God cares how you feel if you are doing evil and throwing tantrums in rebellion against Him*. Such tantrums project evil and sin to harm others while disparaging God in front of others. God knows our hearts (Acts 1:24, 15:8).

What happens when a well-cared for child throws a tantrum? The parent looks to see if the child is unhurt, fed, and clean. If the child continues, you as a parent try to discern if he or she is acting out for a valid reason. Consider this: God usually punishes only for outright rebellion. For example, Paul told the Corinthians regarding one particularly reprobate man, ordering them **"to deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus"** (1 Corinthians 5:5). **"Destruction of the flesh"** meant "destruction unto death." (Read all of 1 Corinthians 5:1–13.) The man did repent. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:17–20).

Decades ago, my wife and I learned much from Dr. James Dobson's book *The Strong Willed Child*. Dobson taught that punishment of a child should ideally occur only if there is outright rebellion toward the parent. God deals with us in a similar way. **"For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he received"** (Hebrews 12:6). God took the same action with regard to Israel, His own chosen people (Ezekiel 20:13, 21). God increasingly punished Israel's rebellion until its destruction was total.

God has little sympathy for the feelings of His rebellious children, though He loves and will save them all in His own good time — He knows their motives. One principle God operates under is this: **“The fear of YHWH prolongs days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened”** (Proverbs 10:27). God killed every human being except 8 people in the flood in Noah’s day. Noah’s righteousness was noted (Genesis 6:9, 7:1; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 2:5). Rebels in the Exodus were killed in front of all Israel. God does such things because of who He is, and because He can and **will** bring those he disciplines back to life. They too will be saved.

Death as the Ultimate “Timeout”

It is uncomfortable to think about, but for some extremely wicked and sinful people death is an ultimate form of disciplinary “timeout” from their life. After their physical resurrections, God will open the minds to accept the truth of His Word. God’s resurrection from death to physical life will cause them (and most people since Adam) to “pay attention” to God’s instruction in righteousness and salvation. (You have been given this blessing in your life now.) They will repent and accept Christ as Savior (their rebellion forgiven) and will be glorified.

I recommend you watch a C-Span video presentation, [“Dennis Prager on Happiness and Goo-ness”](#) broadcast on January 29, 2017. It will be 50 minutes well spent. Prager says, **“Happiness is a moral virtue, not an emotional state.”** Immoral people are not often happy and that leads them to relieve their unhappiness by trying to **“enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season”** (Hebrews 11:25). I believe God looks toward each of His children in the same way. Unless you are truly hurting, He cares less about how you feel and more about how you behave.

Prager goes on, **“... I don’t really care how you feel, I care how you behave.”** And later, **“It doesn’t matter how you feel, it only matters how you act.”** This is totally in line with Christ’s summation of the Law of God: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37–40; Mark 12:30–31; Luke 10:27–28; 1 John 4:7–21) and treat them accordingly. Recently, I have been referencing often John’s profound and enlightening passage, 1 John 3:2–3:

“... when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that has this hope in him purifies himself, even as he is pure.”

Believe it, go, purify yourself by treating others as a child of God should be treated. After all, we have been made free from sin so we can be servants or slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:18) and to Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22), all so that we can serve others. As you purify yourself, you will trend toward perfection, as the apostle Paul says (Philippians 3:12).

Perfection in righteousness will occur only after Christ glorifies you and me. What God wanted from Israel, He wants from each of us, **“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise”** (Psalm 51:17, also Romans 12:1–2; Hebrews 13:16). Today we perform sacrifices by limiting our desires and treating others as future Children of God, which you are now if you have God’s Spirit. If you are not happy now, you can still treat people with kindness and respect, because it is how we should act. You have control over your actions, and it will move you toward happiness.

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