

## **Week 4: The Foundation of Emotional Steadfastness and Stability, Part 1**

### **Lesson Outline**

- **Recap of prior 3 lessons:**
- Lesson 1: “The Problem of Emotion”
  - Emotions are part of being made in God’s image
  - Yet emotions often deceive us
  - We need a biblical framework for understanding the role of faith and feeling
- Lesson 2: “Don’t Follow your Heart”
  - The problem of Total Depravity
  - Tendency toward emotionalism in post-modern evangelicalism
  - Emotional peace isn’t derived from a “feeling of peace” in the heart
- Lesson 3: “Follow God’s Heart”
  - Impassibility (God isn’t subject to involuntary emotion or suffering)
  - God isn’t like us, He is sinless and sovereign
  - His emotions flow from His character, not from concern for how circumstances will effect Him.
  - The emotions of God, exemplified in Christ, are a pattern for us
  - A quick word about “Christian Hedonism”
  - A godly emotional life begins with the love of God (**1 John 4:8**)
  - Biblical love is accompanied by feelings and emotion, it is demonstrated in loving decisions and acts of the will...
  - But ultimately biblical love is Spirit-generated conviction of the heart that becomes characteristic of the Christian
  - Biblical love isn’t sentimental or selfish. It is sacrificial, and is concerned about obedience, compassion, truth, and the building up of the body of Christ.
  - The key to a godly emotional life: Begin by aiming to grow in sacrificial love, and understand that you grow in love by pursuing spiritual maturity, and that spiritual maturity is the result of being transformed by the truth of God’s Word.
- **God uses divine truth to grow us in spiritual maturity and emotional steadfastness and stability**
- Emotional self-control and stability are evidences of spiritual maturity
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- Colossians 3:12-16
- The instrument (Ephesians 4:11, Colossians 3:16)
- The motivation and the context (Colossians 3:12)
- The goal (Ephesians 4:13)
- The benefit (Ephesians 4:14)

- Usefulness to others is another benefit (Ephesians 4:15)
- Philippians 4:6-9 (Positive thinking? Nope. Biblical thinking- verse 9)
- **The source of truth: Trusting the reliability of God's Word**
- Q: Why is trust in the reliability of the Bible critical to your maturity and emotional stability as a Christian?
  
- Q: What do we mean when we say that the Scriptures are the inspired Word of God?
  - 1 Corinthians 14:37, 2 Peter 3:16, John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:12-13  
2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - "theopneustos" breathed out by God
  - 2 Peter 1:21
  
- Q: What is "verbal" inspiration?
  - Matthew 5:18
  
- Q: How should the fact of verbal inspiration affect how we read and study Scripture?
  
- The Holy Spirit is our Teacher- 1 John 2:27
  
- The necessity of reading with the right hermeneutic
  
- The principle of Authorial Intent- one divinely-intended meaning
  
- Violation of this principle
  - Liberal theologians and the allegorizing of Genesis 1-11
  - Catholic theologians and the elevation of Church tradition
  - Cults and their prophets
  - Even many evangelicals have violated this principle
  - The "church ages" of Revelation 2-3, Song of Solomon as an allegory about Christ and the Church, spiritualizing a text- You are the Donkey? (Luke 19:29-38)
  
- The Literal/Grammatical/Historical Hermeneutic
  
- Q: What is plenary inspiration?
  - Romans 15:4, Luke 16:17
  - You can't set Paul and James at odds
  
- Q: What is Biblical Inerrancy?
  - Proverbs 30:5-6