

I. Introduction and review.

II. Love is sympathetic. v. 15

A. Love involves empathy and emotion. Col. 3:12

1. We are part of the same body. 14:7 I Co. 12:26 II Co. 11:28-29
2. Love is sensitive to the feelings of others. Pr. 25:20 17:5
3. Emotion must be real.

B. Many of us (especially the men!) resist expressing our emotions.

1. God does not want us to be Stoics.
2. There is a right time and place for emotional expression. Eccl. 3:4

C. Why do some lack emotional empathy?

1. Personality type?
2. It is sinful to stand aloof from the joys & sorrows of others:
 - a. Self-centeredness, pride, immaturity, and imbalance. Isa. 39:6-8
 - b. Have we been desensitized?

D. Do you have Christlike emotions?

1. A theology of emotion: The gospel is about God sharing our sufferings.
 - a. Sorrow is the result of mankind's fall into sin. 5:12
 - b. God is a compassionate God. Deut. 4:31 Jonah 4:2 Lam. 3:2 Ps. 56:8 Js. 5:11
 - c. God's Son entered our world of misery that we might be saved. Jo. 3:16 17:3f
 - d. Christ will remove all sorrow and restore us to perfect joy. Re. 21:4
2. Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions. John 1:14
 - a. He is fully man: not just physically, but also emotionally.
 - b. He perfectly sympathizes with us. Heb. 2:14-15,17 4:15-16
 - c. Jesus loved. John 11:36 13:34 15:13
 - d. Jesus rejoiced. John 2:1f 17:13 15:11 Luke 5:29 7:34 Mt. 11:19 25:21
 - e. Jesus experienced righteous anger. John 2:14-17

**3. Jesus was a *Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief*. Is. 53:3 Jo. 11:35,33
Luke 19:41-43 23:46 Mt. 23:37 26:37-39 Heb. 5:7**

- a. Jesus' mission of removing misery from the world could only be achieved by His entering into our griefs and sorrows. Mt. 1:23
 - b. He was deeply affected by the results of sin.
 - c. He wept over the death of his close friend. Jo. 11:35
 - d. He grieved over the unbelief of Israel. Luke 19:41 Mt. 23:37
 - e. He was deeply troubled when He was betrayed. John 13:21
 - f. He prayed with loud crying and tears as He anticipated tasting death for us. John 12:27 Heb. 5:7 Mark 14:34
 - g. He cried out in pain as He died. Luke 23:46
 - h. He vicariously and sacrificially bore our griefs and sorrows. Isa. 53:4-6
- 4. Those who refuse to weep and rejoice are unchristlike (and unmanly!).**

E. Weep with those who weep. Mt. 5:4 Jer. 9:1

1. The sorrows of those whom you love should deeply move you. John 11:33
2. Our own griefs help us to empathize with the sorrows of others. II Co. 1:3-4
3. Such involvement is very costly!
4. We should have compassion for the lost. 9:2-3 Jer. 9:1f

F. Rejoice with those who rejoice. Pr. 17:22 II Co. 2:3

1. Empathy isn't just about tears. There is also a time to rejoice! Ecc. 3:4 Ruth 3:7
I Ti. 4:3-5
2. Why is sharing in the joy of others often harder than sharing their tears?
3. Most of all we should rejoice in spiritual realities. v. 12 5:2,11 Mt. 13:44
Lu. 6:23 10:20 15:10 19:37 Phil. 4:4

III. Love is humble. v. 16

A. Be like minded. v. 16a 15:5 Phil. 2:2-4 II Co. 13:11 Eph. 4:1-6

1. Passionately pursue unity with other believers. Eph. 4:1-6
2. Treat other believers with due love and regard. Phil. 2:1-4
3. Some Christians don't know when to stop fighting.
4. We should have a kindred spirit with all other believers.
In essentials unity. In non-essentials liberty. In all things charity.

B. Don't be high minded. v. 16b I Co. 13:4

1. Pride destroys unity.
2. Don't be snooty! Js. 2:1f Luke 14:12-14
3. Embrace those whom the world rejects. I Co. 1:26f
4. Some of the most doctrinally astute Christians are theological snobs.
5. Patiently love and accept believers who may be less mature.

C. Don't be wise in your own eyes. 11:25 Pr. 3:5 I Co. 8:1-3

True wisdom is humble. Js. 3:13-18

D. Jesus was humble minded. Phil. 2:5f John 1:1,13 Mt. 11:29

IV. Concluding applications.

A. It is not enough to love God's truth. You must also love God's people. I Jo. 4:20

B. Jesus loved us.

1. He is full of compassion. v. 15 John 11:35 Luke 19:41-43 Mt. 23:37 Heb. 4:14-16
 - a. His love for us led Him to die for us.
 - b. One day He will wipe away every tear. Rev. 7:17 21:4
2. He humbled Himself for our salvation. v. 16 Phil. 2:5f

C. Love others as Christ has loved you.

Discussion questions.

1. Why do some people resist expressing their emotions?
2. What is the source of sorrow in the world?
3. What is the most sympathetic act in all of history?
4. What emotions did Jesus express?
5. How should our emotional life be Christlike?
6. How can you weep with those who weep?
7. Why is it sometimes harder to rejoice with those who rejoice than it is to weep with those who weep?
8. What does it mean that we are to be of the same mind?
9. How can intellectual pride destroy the unity of the church?
10. How does Jesus exemplify humble-mindedness?