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| **SERIES** | LET’S TALK ABOUT |
| **BIBLE** | I Thessalonians 5:23-24 |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | EMOTIONS (The “soul” of sanctification) |
| **OVERVIEW** | How do you feel about emotions? For some Christians, emotions are the problem behind every sin, the engine of the relationship rollercoaster, the root of every bad decision, and the secret evils we must learn to pray away. For other, emotions are the way God leads big decisions, or the test of a good worship time, or the general thermostat of our spiritual happiness. God’s Word shows us the error in both of these perspectives. **Emotions are a beautiful gift of our humanity that God wants to save and sanctify for the good/maturity of all believers.** |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **Emotions are part of the beautiful complexity of humanity that God desires to save and sanctify. I Thessalonians 5:23-24***I Thessalonians 5: 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.*Notice the complexity of humanity. (Later we’ll return to what God wants to do with it…)spirit – *pneuma.* the human spirit, not the Holy Spirit. “your whole spirit”. the rational part of man, the power of perceiving and grasping divine and eternal things, and upon which the Spirit of God exerts its influence; (Martin Luther, "is the highest and noblest part of man, which qualifies him to lay hold of incomprehensible, invisible, eternal things; in short, it is the house where Faith and God's word are at home” body – *soma.* Our physical components (organs, tissues, bones, blood) that temporarily house our spirit and through which we express our emotions. soul – *psyche*. The breath of life, the vital force that animates the body. And the seat of feelings, desires, affections, aversions. Soul includes our emotions. Soul in Scripture – Part of you that animates; God’s breath of life, the part of you that feels, leads and/or responds with emotions.**The soul is clearly demonstrated throughout scripture –** Talk through brief examples of fear, courage, anger, hatred, bitterness, joy, anxiety… (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8) **“With all our soul” is the way scripture calls believers to relate to God.**  With all our soul… we are to **seek** the LORD (Deut 4:29), **love** the LORD (Deut 6:5; Matthew 22:37), **serve** the LORD (Deut 10:12), **follow the commands** of the LORD (Deut 26:16), **praise** the LORD (Psalm 103:1), **find rest** in the LORD (Psalm 62: 1), **cry out** to the LORD (like Hannah in I Sam 1:15**), rejoice** in the LORD (Isaiah 61:10), **glorify/magnify** the Lord (Luke 1:46-47)**Jesus, perfect in His humanity, shows us the righteous expression of the soul – Compassion** on harassed crowds, like sheep without a shepherd (Mark 6: 34; Matthew 9:36), **indignation** regarding doubt about healing (Mark 2:40-42), **indignation** at hindering children from coming to Him (Mark 10:13-15), **embracing and blessing** children (Mark 10: 16), **loving** the rich man whom He called away from his riches (Mark 10:21), **anger and deep distress** at stubborn hearts (Mark 3:5), **weeping** at the death of beloved friend (John 11:35), **wept over the judgment** coming to the city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44), **overwhelming sorrow** as He approached the suffering of the cross (Matthew 26:38)**God’s promise – and blessing – is that HE will make each believer wholly sanctified (spirit, soul, body) just like Jesus, as we trust and follow HIM. I Thessalonians 5: 23-24***I Thessalonians 5: 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.* |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?Emotions are not the enemy. But they have been tainted and twisted by sin. Broken emotions lead to greater issues of brokenness. But Jesus can understand and identify with our human emotions. Jesus is our great high priest who was also our sacrifice. He saves us and now can provide mercy and grace to renew all things, even our emotions, for God’s glory. (Look at Hebrews 4: 15-16) |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | DiscipleGROW – Take time to honestly evaluation your expressions of “soul”. Are these expressions moving you toward greater love of God, delight in the Lord, and obedience. Or are they hindering your development? Take time to begin working on the next area of being sanctified through and through. |