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### The Doctrine of Emotions

Emotion is defined as a complex, biological, physiological process or function concerned with somatic expression or feeling. Emotion can be normal or abnormal. The purpose of normal emotion is to respond to various thoughts in our souls by way of norms and standards.

2. Emotion is what is experienced as distinguished from cognitive and volitional states of consciousness. The frame of reference, memory center, viewpoint, norms and standards, and doctrine exist in the right lobe only. None of these exist in the emotions that are designed to respond to thoughts that emanate from them.
3. Emotions can respond to thoughts, but emotions can also function without thoughts. When emotions function without thoughts, it is abnormal emotional activity called emotional instability. It comes and goes with extreme rapidity.
4. Emotions contain no thinking, therefore they are not adequate guides for motives, decisions, and actions of the believer.
5. Normal emotional experience results in subordinating the emotion to the intellect. Abnormal emotional experience results in the soul subordinating the intellect to the emotion, or the emotion bypassing the norms and standards.
6. Positive response to the heart produces the spectrum of happiness in the emotions from tranquility to ecstatic.

Happiness is there because of doctrine. But how do you know it's there?  
Emotions tell you, because of all of the responses from the whole spectrum of emotions.

7. There is no divine power in emotions. The power is in thought, and that thought must be Bible doctrine. Emotion has no spiritual connotation. Emotions are a stimuli for action, and therefore must be regarded as a form of human energy.
  - a. Emotional stress, for example, causes people to act on impulse. The emotion of fear, also a sin, causes flight. The emotion of disgust causes repulsion. The emotion of anger causes violence.

- b. Instincts are reflex behavior based on emotion rather than thought.  
Emotion does not contain thought.

Therefore, emotion is physiological and not spiritual.

- 8. Emotion does not contain the ability to reason. It does not contain common sense. It does not contain vocabulary as a tool for mental function. It has no doctrinal content.

Emotion is related to human power and influence, but never to divine power and the mystery doctrine of the church.

- a. Such believers make a god of their emotions, Phil.3:18
  - b. Such believers' emotional patterns distract them from the execution of the plan of God, Rom.16:17-18
  - c. Emotion hinders spiritual growth and application of Bible doctrine, 2 Cor.6:11-12.
  - d. Such believers' unrestrained or uncontrolled emotional patterns are the basics for criminality, violence, hatred, anger, total involvement in the arrogance complex, which means bitterness, vindictiveness, jealousy, implacability, and self-pity.
- 9. Ignorance of Bible doctrine causes people to say things like, "You are not saved unless you feel saved; you are not spiritual unless you feel spiritual. Under some conditions, the use of doctrine in recall or application often causes an emotional response, and that is normal, but not necessary.