

Emotions are the cry of the soul. They expose what we are doing with the sorrow of life and in turn reveal what our heart is doing with God.

Dan B Allender; Tremper Longman. The Cry of the Soul: How Our Emotions Reveal Our Deepest Questions About God

Incarnation the Model for Loving Well

Philippians 2:1-11

Phil 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being **like-minded**, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the **same mindset as Christ Jesus:**

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used
to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death —
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

**THE PRIMARY JOB OF
THE CHURCH IS TO
LOVE WELL.**

Love God well

Love each other well

Love those in the world well

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:33

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1 John 4:20

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Love each other well

Love those in the world well

LOVE AS FEELING

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

LOVE AS TOLERANCE

“Though I disapprove of what you say I will defend to the death the right you have to say it.” Voltaire(?)

LOVE AS INCARNATION

“a concrete or actual form of a quality or concept”

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn 1.14

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes. (msg)

Phil 2:1-11

Therefore if [fact] you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

v5:

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus...

**“this exhortation reaches back to v2-4 for its definition and ahead to 6-8 for its illustration”
-Wuest**

Definition of exhortation: we are to have the same mind, same love, one in spirit (UNITY). We are to value others above ourselves, not looking at our own interests but rather the interests of others.

HOW?

Incarnation is the Model (illustration) for Loving Well

Phil 2.6-8

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
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God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. Not counting people's sin against them.

2 Cor 5.19

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“Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.”

–David Augsburger

“Learning to incarnate is the sixth principle of emotional health because it assumes progress on the other five. To the extent I am maturing in the first five principles is the degree to which I will be able to love well.” (p187)

As you look at the incarnate son of God dying on the cross the most powerful thought you should think is: this is the true meaning of who God is. He is the God of self-giving love.

-NT Wright