

SESSION 11: BATTLEFIELD #3: EMOTIONS V. TRUTH

What Depravity Specifically Means for Women

Battlefield #1: Nurture for Control

Women have a tendency to trade Nurture for Control.

Battlefield #2: Inner v. Outer Beauty

Women tend to place a higher emphasis on Outer Beauty and ignore the need for Inner Beauty.

Battlefield #3: Women have a tendency to set their direction based on their Emotions and downplay the priority of Truth.

I. Relational Strengths.

As Seen in Creation (Genesis 1 & 2)

As Seen in Parenting (1 Thess. 2:7-12)

Mother:

Father:

As Seen in Proverbs

Lady Wisdom (Proverbs 1:20-33)

Lady Folly (Proverbs 9:13-18)

II. Relational Conclusions

- A. Women were created with exceptional relational strengths with a strong emotional orientation.
- B. Women who allow their emotions to control their choices stand on shaky ground.
- C. Truth does not jeopardize relationships but rather it strengthens relationships.
- D. Avoiding emotional pain today by doing the wrong thing will ultimately result in more pain in the future.
- E. God will give you the ability to take every thought captive so that you can obey Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. From our Reflection Assignment last week: What did you decide to create or add to your “spiritual beauty regimen” to help you shift your focus from external and toward internal beauty?
2. What are some of the advantages of women being “wired” emotionally/relationally? What are the benefits to men and society?
3. Are some emotions more “dangerous” than others? Explain.
4. Share a time when you (or “someone you know”) was led astray by your emotions. What “Truth” would have led to a different outcome?
5. How do you respond to or wrestle with “truth” inserted by God or someone else in the midst of an intense/important situation, especially if it contradicts your emotional/relational concerns?
6. What are some danger signals that we are being guided by our emotions?
7. What are some practical steps we can take to be sure we set our direction based on the Truth?

Reflection Assignment:

Think back over your emotions for the last week or so—especially the strong ones. What did you do as a result of those emotions? Would you have acted differently if you’d had time to think? How?

Passage to Ponder over the Holidays: Philippians 4:4-9

Week Eleven Summary:

As we wrap up this first half of our Biblical Womanhood study, we examine the third major Battlefield of Depravity for women: **We tend to set our direction based on our Emotions and downplay the value of Truth.** Once again, in an area of great strength, we are also vulnerable to a misdirection that can send us dangerously off course. Part of God's beautifully intricate design for Humanity is His building into women the capacity for powerful emotion. The feminine knack for tenderness, compassion, and empathy certainly equips us well to Nurture the Next Generation, physically and emotionally as well as spiritually. The Apostle Paul, when describing his ministry to the Thessalonian church, chose the image of a mother's tender, self-sacrificial, relational focus on her small child. Women have an exceptional ability to enter into the world of others, identify with their experiences and reactions, and respond to them emotionally. Unfortunately, this relational strength can sometimes cloud our judgment. We can become so involved in the relational and emotional nuances of life (whether our own, or others') that we lose sight of a reality or truth that transcends those experiences. In other words, we sometimes can't see the forest for the trees. Although we like to think we would never reject a life-saving surgery (for ourselves or someone we love) out of a desire to avoid pain, for example, often that is just what we do in less obvious cases when our emotions overcome the truth in guiding us. Often the stakes are even greater than physical life or death, but we fail to see the gravity of the situation. We can, with all good intentions, destroy our lives—or as the Proverb warns, tear our houses down with our own hands. It is vitally important that we recognize the danger of this pitfall.

The world's advice to "trust your heart" is so often a formula for disaster. However, the solution is *not* to eradicate emotion from our souls—as if we could! Rather, we must commit ourselves to the priority of objective Truth. Proverbs tells us that Wisdom must be pursued and sought after as a great treasure. We must spare no trouble to conform our minds to the Truth of God's Word. For the next half of this study, we will be looking carefully at this Truth and seeking to apply it to our daily living as women. At times, we will be called upon to do things that seem painful for us. We may react emotionally against what we hear. We may even be *afraid* to act in accordance with what we hear. But if we are courageous and committed, God promises that His ways are far better than ours and His Wisdom can be trusted.