

Do Feelings Define Reality?

I. The problem with letting feelings define reality.

A. It leads to intolerance against those who disagree.

B. It leads to unintended negative consequences.

C. It hurts those who let feelings define their reality.

II. The Biblical correction.

A. The Bible warns about our capacity for self-deception.

⁹ "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? ¹⁰ "I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds. Jeremiah 17:9-10 (NASB)

²⁶ He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered. Proverbs 28:26 (NASB)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NASB)

B. We look outside ourselves for wisdom.

¹My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, ²Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; ³For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; ⁴If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵Then you will discern the fear of the Lord And discover the knowledge of God. ⁶For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:1-6 (NASB)

¹⁹You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?" ²⁰On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it? ²¹Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? Romans 9:19-21 (NASB)