

# WITH ALL YOUR HEART(FELT) AFFECTIONS, LOVE GOD

Mk 12:28-30

**I. AWE: an attitude of** fearful reverence, dread + veneration; blended desire/fear approach to Holy (*Wakan-Tanka*=Holy Mystery in Lakota); Rudolph Otto's *mysterium tremendum* in *Idea of Holy*; "awestruck" by arresting events; occasional ecstatic *kairos* (not *kronos*) moments

- A. Earthly Icons/Windows, Clues, Vestiges of heavenly realities pointing God-ward
  - 1. Nature's *aletheia* (unveiling truth): lightning; sunset; Old Faithful; Grand Canyon; North Oahu
  - 2. Athletic & artistic performers: PGA golfers & NFL quarterbacks & marathon victors & musicians; (e.g. my meeting Michael Johnson, acclaimed Olympian)
  - 3. Unusual monuments, artifacts, in diverse realms: architectural; literary; crafts
- B. Heavenly Wonder as Secondary response—reflective response to Mystery of Being; Paradoxical Shame/Glory of Cross & "Good Friday"
  - 1. Best philosophy & theology sparked by sense of wonder at why things are & how God has providentially worked in creation, history, salvation events
  - 2. When confronting the unknown, mysterious, paradoxical, the proper stance (as evident in High Priest's yearly entrance to Holy of Holies)
  - 3. C.S. Lewis re *Sehnsucht*—joy, beauty, "shadow of holiness"

**II. ADMIRATION: a judgment made to** think highly of, grant approbation for

- A. Earthly judgments—thoughtful evaluations
  - 1. Accomplishments: praise friends; celebrities; saints; scholars
  - 2. Commitments: celebrate family; church; country; ideals;
  - 3. Personalities: point to as examples—students; leaders; entertainers
- B. Heavenly inclination, evaluation, evident as highly regard God's
  - 1. Accomplishments: praise for creation, revelation, grace, forgiveness
  - 2. Commitments: remember & commemorate covenants (thus Passover, Easter)
  - 3. Personalities: commend beauty/truth of three-in-one Supreme Being, revealed to us in Christ as "only begotten Son"

**III. APPRECIATION: an expression communicating** understanding & assessing the nature & worth of something/someone intrinsically good

- A. Earthly responses:
  - 1. Understand & celebrate depths & intricacy of human nature, talents—e.g. music, rhetoric, mathematics etc—"fearfully & wonderfully made"
  - 2. Gratitude for blessings enjoyed—family, opportunities, pleasures
- B. Heavenly stance, crediting ultimate Source of all goods
  - 1. Study Theology (Scripture; Doctrine)—seeking to understand Him & His works
  - 2. Express Gratitude for blessings enjoyed

**IV. ADORATION: a work performed by** showing an extreme fondness for—evident in praise/prayer

- A. Earthly activities
  - 1. Covet & seek out presence of adorable ones (honored kinfolk; celebrities)
  - 2. Constant praise given for attractiveness, attainments
- B. Heavenly work ("liturgy" means work of God)
  - 1. Prayer: daily routines; sensitive, spontaneous moments; liturgical traditions
  - 2. Praise: in song, especially—thus "Joyfully, Joyfully We Adore Thee;" "Joy to the World;" "Praise Him, Praise Him;" "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
  - 3. Appropriate testimonies, witness

## RELIGIOUS AFFECTIONS

--Jonathan Edwards

**“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory”** (I Peter 1:8).

- “Hence the proposition or doctrine, that I would raise from these words is this, true religion, in great part, consists in holy affections” (Kindle #28979).
- “But yet, it is not the body, but the mind only, that is the proper seat of the affections” (#29028).
- “In nothing is vigour in the actings of our inclinations so requisite, as in religion; and in nothing is lukewarmness so odious” (#29061).
- “The Holy Scriptures ever where place religion very much in the affections; such as fear, hope, love, hatred, desire, joy, sorrow, gratitude, compassion, and zeal” (#29115).
- “The Scriptures represent true religion, as being summarily comprehended in love, the chief of the affections, and the fountain of all others” (#29190).
- “So likewise in 1 Tim. i.5, ‘Now the end of the commandment is charity, out of a pure heart’” (#29197).
- “But it is doubtless true, and evident from the Scriptures, that the essence of all true religion lies in holy love; and that in this divine affection—and habitual disposition to it, that light which is the foundation to it, and those things which are its fruits—consists the whole of religion” (#29206).
- “The first instance is David, that man after God’s own heart; who has given us a lively portraiture of his religion in the book of Psalms. Those holy songs are nothing else but the expressions and breathings of devout and holy affections; such as an humble and fervent love to God, admiration of his glorious perfections and wonderful works, earnest desires, thirstings, and pantings of soul after him; delight and joy in God, a sweet and melting gratitude for his great goodness, a holy exultation and triumph of soul in his favour, sufficiency, and faithfulness; his love to, and delight in, the saints, the excellent of the earth, his great delight in the word and ordinances of God, his grief for his own and others’ sins, and his fervent zeal for God, and against the enemies of God and his church” (#29222).
- “We are not speaking of the affections of the body, but those of the soul, the chief of which are love and joy. When these are in the soul, whether that be in the body or out of it, the soul is affected and moved” (#29310).
- “It is an evidence that true religion lies very much in the affections, that the Scriptures place the sin of the heart very much in hardness of heart. It was the hardness of heart which excited grief and displeasure in Christ towards the Jews, Mark iii.5, ‘He looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts’” (#29365).
- “As there is no true religion where there is nothing else but affection, so there is no true religion where there is no religious affection” (#29452).
- “The right way, is not to reject all affections, nor to approve all: but to distinguish between them . . . separating between the wheat and the chaff, the gold and the dross, the precious and the vile” (#29465).