



Not quite sure why, but many of us who follow Jesus don't often think of our Lord in a "feeling" sort of way. While this isn't true of all of us, it is for many of us, especially those among us who tend to be more "cerebral" in our approach to Christ and who struggle a bit when it comes to expressing our feelings, even toward God. And yet, the Bible portrays not only Jesus as having feelings and emotions, but it also tells us that the same is true of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. You may not have thought of it in this way before, but it is safe to say that God is very emotional when it comes to His feelings about you! As we fly out of 2020 and land in 2021, there is a question we need to ask ourselves. It is actually the same question that the Apostle John asked and answered in **1 John 3:19-24**. Since this is the first Sunday of the New Year, here's how we'll put it:

WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO FEEL TOWARD HIM IN 2021?

This much I know for sure - if the things Jesus wants us to feel find their spot in our hearts, then 2021 will indeed be a "Happy New Year." And that's an emotion we all need to feel!

1. (v. 19a) God wants you to feel absolutely ...
2. (v. 19b) God wants you to feel absolutely ...
3. (v. 20a) God wants you to feel absolutely ...
4. (v. 20b) God wants you to feel absolutely ...

5. (vv. 21-22a) God wants you to feel absolutely ...

6. (vv. 22b-23) God wants you to feel absolutely ...

7. (v. 24a) God wants you to feel absolutely ...

8. (v.24b) God wants you to feel absolutely ...

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

1. In 2021, it would be a good thing to ...
2. In 2021, let your ...
3. In 2021, express your heart for God to help others ...

FOR THOUGHT AND TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Do you tend to be more "cerebral" or are you more "touchy, feely" in your approach to God? What does each perspective provide us as we relate to God? Why are both necessary?
2. Have you ever spent much time contemplating the importance of your feelings toward the Lord? Can you think of some people in the Bible who were very connected to God through their feelings? Now take another look at the 8 ways God wants us to feel toward Him. Of those various ways, which one or two most spoke to you and why?
3. What does it mean to "let your guard down to the Holy Spirit?" How does one do this? Why is this important in following Jesus?
4. Who would you most like to see come to Jesus in 2021? How can expressing your feelings for God help others see their need of God?

*01.03.21 - 15th in a series of messages by Pastor John K. Nagle from the Book of 1 John.
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