

Doctrine of Weeping Revisited

1. Weeping is an emotional reaction. All members of the human race weep at some point of time as an expression of emotion.
2. While weeping is a normal function of the soul, when a person is weeping they generally tend to stop thinking. For this reason pastors in particular are to guard their emotions.
 - *1 Corinthians 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*
3. Weeping has some negative aspects.
 - Weeping can express disorientation to life.
 - Weeping can express self pity.
 - Weeping can express frustration.
 - Weeping is used in a tantrum.
 - Weeping general expresses a failure to trust the Lord and rest in Him.
4. Weeping can be sinful as when the children of the Exodus Generation heard the negative report of the spies and cried in fear and unbelief.
 - *Numbers 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.*
5. But there are examples of bonified weeping so no Christian need to be ashamed of letting the teardrops fall.
 - Jesus Christ wept three recorded times.
 - ❖ At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus wept in mourning and with compassion. *John 11:35 Jesus wept.*
 - ❖ Jesus wept with sorrow over the city of Jerusalem. *Luke 19:41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,*
 - ❖ Jesus wept with pain on the Cross. *Hebrews 5:7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;*
6. There are four bonified occasions for weeping associated with believers.
 - If not prolonged, weeping is bonified at the death of a loved one. *1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

- As an expression of compassion, weeping is bonified. *Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.*
- As an expression of faith and rest in God, weeping is bonified provided joy comes in the morning. *Psalms 30:5 For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*
- As a reaction to pain, weeping is bonified. *Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

7. Sometimes weeping is sinful.

- David wept tears of failure over his son Absalom. *2 Samuel 18:33 And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!*
- David wept in the midst of a catastrophe for failure to live up to his responsibility to guard his family and friends. *1 Samuel 30:4 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. The antidote for failure is 1 John 1:9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- Some people who did not like the construction of the Second Temple engaged in sinful weeping of frustration at its dedication. *Ezra 3:12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house [Temple], when the foundation of this house [Temple] was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: 13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.*
- Drunken weeping of disorientation is sinful weeping. *Joel 1:5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.*
- Continual weeping is sinful weeping. *Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.*

- There is the weeping of unbelief. *Numbers 13:32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness!*