

# The Emotions of Psalms



@vinechurchnetwork

## THE AFFECTIONS

What is orthopathy? 🤔

The process of feeling the right way about something.

Greek: *orthos* (right) *pathos* (passion)

## THE AFFECTIONS

How did we get to a place culturally where we have such a difficult time practicing orthopathy?

Modernity



Post-modernity

## THE AFFECTIONS

What should I do about it? 🧒 🧒





Richard Beck, *Experimental Theology: On Orthopathy*

“But the issue isn’t about emotion, but about right emotion. Yes, there are plenty of examples of wrong and misplaced emotions. But that’s not an excuse to avoid emotion. We avoid emotion at our peril. Because something in the world will appeal to our emotions if churches won’t. The call here is, rather, for orthopathy, the directing of emotions toward their proper goal and the shaping of virtue. In fact, when we see Christians behaving badly I’d argue this is due less to bad beliefs than bad emotions, fears and loves being misdirected. When Christians go wrong this is less about a suite of bad ideas than about paranoid fears and inordinate loves. These distorted and twisted emotions need proper direction and formation.”

## THE ATTACK

Is there a progression of temptation?

**YES!** James 1:14-15 “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”



## Triggering Event

*situation/circumstance/temptation happens,  
presentation of lie*



## Processing

*mental (orthodoxy) and emotional (orthopathy)  
reactions*



## Action

*what we proceed to do (orthopraxy)*



## Heart in Hebrew = **lēbāb**

*the center of a man, from which their emotions, intellect/thoughts, and will all proceed*





## Psalm 1, *ESV*

1 Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
3 He is like a tree  
planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.  
In all that he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives  
away.  
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in  
the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the  
righteous;  
6 for the Lord knows the way of the  
righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

## THE ATTACK

Progression of sin

1 Blessed is the man  
who **walks** not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor **stands** in the way of sinners,  
nor **sits** in the seat of scoffers;

# THE ATTACK

## 3 Enemies



1 John 2:15-17 “15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

Galatians 5:16-17 “16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”



1 Peter 5:8-9 “8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith...”

## THE ANTIDOTE

2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree

**planted** by streams of water  
that yields its **fruit** in its season,  
and its leaf does **not wither**.

In all that he does, he **prosper**s.



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