



August 6, 2006

Cearing Up for Greater Effectiveness Cearing Up and the Place of the Heart

3 Key ways to relate to your inner man

I. God Wants Us to Be a Church That Understands the Heart.

A. By knowing the way the word is used in Scripture.

1. You draw conclusions in your heart.

Ecclesiastes 7:2-
the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart.

2. Your heart guides your behavior.

Proverbs 4:23- *Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

3. Your heart can be wholly devoted to something/someone or divided in its loyalties.

Positively - Joshua 22:5- *But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.*

Negatively - 1 Kings 11:4- *As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been.*

4. Your heart can be wise and understanding.

Psalms 90:12 - *So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

5. Your heart can be angry.

Psalms 39:3 - *My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue*

6. Your heart can be where God's Word is stored.

Psalms 37:31 - *The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*

7. Your heart can be bitter.

Proverbs 14:10 - *The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy.*

8. Your heart can be broken.

Jeremiah 23:9 - *My heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome, because of the Lord, and because of His holy words.*

9. Your heart can be courageous.

Psalms 27:14 - *Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!*

John 14:1 - *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.*

10. Your heart can be deceived.

Isaiah 47: 10- For you have trusted in your wickedness; you have said, 'No one sees me'; your wisdom and your knowledge have warped you; and you have said in your heart, 'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'

11. You make plans in your heart.

1 Kings 12: 33- So he made offerings on the altar which he had made at Bethel on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, in the month which he had devised in his own heart. And he ordained a feast for the children of Israel, and offered sacrifices on the altar and burned incense.

12. You can be discouraged in your heart.

Galatians 6: 9- And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

13. Your heart can be dull and unresponsive to truth.

Matthew 13: 15- For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.

14. Your heart is where enticement to sin begins.

Job 31: 9- If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door

15. Your heart can be steadfast and faithful.

Psalms 57: 7- My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.

16. Your heart can be foolish.

Romans 1: 21 - because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

17. Your heart can be glad.

Psalms 4: 7- You have put gladness in my heart, more than in the season that their grain and wine increased.

18. Your heart can be guilty.

a. The state of guilt - *Romans 2: 5- But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God*

b. The feeling of guilt - *2 Samuel 24: 10- And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O Lord, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."*

19. Your heart can be hardened.

Proverbs 28: 14- Happy is the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

20. Your heart can be fearful.

1 Samuel 28: 5- When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly.

21. Your heart can be hateful.

2 Samuel 6:16- Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

22. Your heart can be turned away from God.

1 Kings 11:3-4 - And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.

23. Your heart can be idolatrous.

Ezekiel 20:16- because they despised My judgments and did not walk in My statutes, but profaned My Sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols.

24. Your heart is your inner person (as contrasted to your outer man).

1 Samuel 16:7- But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

25. Your heart can be pure.

1 Timothy 1:5- Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith

26. Your heart is where lust occurs.

Matthew 5:28- But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

27. Your heart is where lies develop.

Isaiah 59:13- In transgressing and lying against the Lord, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

28. Your heart can follow God's heart.

Jeremiah 3:15- And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

29. You meditate in your heart.

Psal m 19:14- Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

30. You can make plans in your heart that are biblical.

Proverbs 19:21- There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand.

31. Your heart can be proud.

Psal m 101:5- Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure.

32. Your heart can be stubborn and rebellious.

Jeremiah 5: 23- *But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; they have revolted and departed.*

33. Repentance begins in your heart.

Psalms 51: 17- *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise.*

34. You can be sad in your heart.

John 16: 6- *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.*

35. You can set your heart in a particular direction.

Daniel 10: 12- *Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.*

36. Your heart can be sincere.

Colossians 3: 22- *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.*

37. You speak in your heart.

Psalms 15: 2- *He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart*

38. Your heart can be tender.

2 Kings 22: 19- *because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the Lord.*

39. Your heart can be filled with praise and thanksgiving.

Psalms 111: 1- *Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.*

40. Your heart can be willing.

Exodus 35: 5- *Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze*

Matthew 15: 8- *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*

- B. By having a working definition.

verse 8— *This people honors me with their lips, but their heart...*

verse 18— *the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart...*

verse 19-20 — *For out of the heart come evil thoughts...to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.*

Dr. Renald Showers — *heart — the control center of man.*

God Wants Us to Be a Church That Emphasizes the Heart.

- A. Instead of attempting to rationalize the sin of our hearts.

James 4:8- *...purify your hearts...*

B. Instead of majoring on the minors.

III. God Wants Us to Be a Church that Cultivates the Heart.

A. Be sure that you received a new heart by trusting Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Ezekiel 36: 26-27 - *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.*

2 Corinthians 5: 17- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

B. Cultivate a Heart that truly is growing in your love for the Lord.

Matthew 22: 37 - *Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind'*

C. Take specific steps to draw near to the Lord in your heart.

James 4:8- *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...*

Genesis 5: 24- *And Enoch walked with God...*

D. When fighting sin, do not be satisfied with simply modifying behavior.

James 4:8- *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

Additional resources in the Ministry Resource Center

Ed Welch – *Motives: Why Do I Do the Things I Do?* (pamphlet)

Elyse Fitzpatrick – *Idols of the Heart* (book)

Brent Aucoin – *Heart of Change* (DVD series)

E. Seek to participate in corporate worship in a wholehearted fashion.

15: 9 – *But in vain do they worship me.*

John MacArthur - *One of God's supreme commands is: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (Ex. 20: 7). That command obviously prohibits profanity or vulgarity in which the Lord's name is used. It also obviously prohibits flippant, irreverent use of His name. But more than those obvious things, it also forbids any use of God's name that is superficial, indifferent, insincere, or hypocritical.*

It has been said that God's name is taken in vain more often inside the church than outside. His name is taken in vain whenever it is mechanically used in repetitious prayers and liturgies, in singing His praise while having no thought of Him, and in praying thoughtlessly and without genuine devotion. His name is taken in vain through empty worship perhaps more than in any other way.

F. Commit yourself to developing a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90: 12 - *So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

G. Develop a heart and lifestyle that is more singularly focused.

Joshua 22: 5- *But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul."*

H. Avoid pride in your heart.

Psal m101:5- *Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, Him I will destroy; The one who has a haughty look and a proud heart, Him I will not endure.*

I. Ask the Lord for a courageous heart.

Psal m27: 14- *Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!*