

So How Are Your Inward Parts?

By: Dan Jenkins

If you did not read the title of this article, do it now and then resume reading. So what did you think when you read it? Did you first think of X-ray, CT Scan, MRI or some other procedure that is part of the medical world? It might surprise you that the Bible itself uses the phrase “inward parts.”

In the King James Version, this phrase is found fewer than ten times. We turn our attention to its use in Jeremiah 31:31-34. In this passage, God looks into the future of the Jewish nation to whom Jeremiah spoke. He described the true nature of Christianity. “This shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” God was planning on putting His laws in man’s inward parts. The Hebrew word for “inward part” indicates the central part of man, and the New Testament quotes this Old Testament verse and uses the phrase “into their minds” (Heb. 8:10).

The words “inward parts” (or mind) and the word “heart” which follows them probably reflect Hebrew parallelism, but there is a blessing if we look more carefully at the contrast between putting “My laws in their minds” and writing “them in their hearts.” God seems to make a distinction between minds and hearts in this passage. There is a distinct difference in the mind and the heart.

Christianity first involves the law of God and the mind of man. Before His words truly become part of our spiritual lives, we must use our minds to know His laws. We listen to His words or read them in the Bible, and we are “...taught by God” and are “...drawn to Him” (John 6:44-45). We know His laws because we have put them in our minds.

However, if we stop at this point, our relationship with Him has just begun and being transformed into His image will never happen. Our inward part, our soul, must be involved. To use Paul’s words, “We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:18).

We come to His word with open hearts and unveiled faces and see His image. That image is a mirror in which we see His glory, but we also see ourselves. We see Him, but our souls see ourselves. By spending time looking at Him, His image is written on our hearts and our glory becomes like His glory. These words vividly describe how the Holy Spirit changes us. God’s Spirit changes us to be like God, but it never happens without using His mirror to write His words first in our minds and then in our souls. So how do you look in your inside?

I'm OK, You're OK?

By: Selected

In 1967, Thomas A. Harris published a book entitled, *I'm OK, You're OK*. The book focused on interpersonal relationships, healthy communication and understanding how individuals interact with one another. Harris did not focus on religious beliefs, but the title of his book has certainly been taken and used frequently in that arena for over 50 years.

When a difference in beliefs and/or teachings about the Bible has arisen, some have tried to argue that such differences are immaterial and want to conclude, "I'm ok, you're ok." But, when it comes to the truths of the Word of God, can we take such an approach? Is it permissible to God (to use another phrase) to "agree to disagree"? Let's consider just a few examples.

If two religious groups teach two different paths to salvation from sin, is one "ok" and the other also "ok"? God clearly teaches us to not add to His Word, nor take away from it (Rev. 22:18-19). We are warned about "anyone" teaching "any other gospel" than what is plainly found in Scripture (Gal. 1:9). We are commanded to "all speak the same thing" and to have "no divisions" among us (1 Cor. 1:10). We are cautioned against merely thinking that we are right with the Lord, when we have not actually been obeying Him (Matt. 7:21-23).

So, back to the question—If two religious groups teach two different paths to salvation from sin, is one "ok" and the other also "ok"? Let's be more specific—if one group teaches that salvation is by faith alone but another group teaches that salvation is not by faith alone, are they both "ok"? If one group teaches that baptism is essential for salvation but another group teaches that baptism is not essential for salvation, are they both "ok"? If

one group teaches that a Christian can fall away from his saved state and be lost but another group teaches that once a person is saved that he is always saved, are they both "ok"?

It is obvious that saying two opposite things cannot both be right or "ok." Why would anyone "agree to disagree" when the Bible makes matters of salvation so clear? The Bible teaches that one is saved by faith (John 3:16), but it does not teach that one is saved by faith alone (John 3:36; 8:30-44; Jas. 2:14-26). The Bible teaches that baptism of a penitent believer is essential for sins to be forgiven by Christ (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). The Bible teaches that once a person is saved that he can so live that he falls away from his saved state and is lost (Jas. 5:19-20; 2 Pet. 2:20-22; Gal. 5:1-4). Thank God for the clarity of His Word!

Disagreements over religious beliefs cannot be settled by "I'm ok, you're ok." They must be settled by Scripture!



Upcoming Events

Nov. 2: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45pm afternoon service. Please bring a friend and a covered dish.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Brad Kanning, a friend of Virginia Escojido, who had a brain bleed three weeks ago and is in a Houston hospital on a ventilator.

Jerri Rosales who received a new kidney recently and is recovering in Houston.

Elana Carroll who recently lost her job and is searching for a new one.

Clifton Rutherford who has been ill recently and is now taking physical therapy.

Summer Siegel, who had tests done in Houston last week.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, and Veronica Serenil.

VISITORS:

Thank you for visiting today. Please take a moment to scan this QR Code to fill out a visitor card. We would love to have a record of your attendance.



Service Roster

Week of October 19, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Ferman Rosales
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer..... Jeff Cannady
Closing Prayer..... Bryant Siegel

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Barry Lehtinen
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Jake Jacobs
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Benny Horton

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Luke FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Doug Jobs
Closing Prayer..... Steve Randle

Lord's Supper & Offering..... Benny Horton/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class Cody McCoy
Song Leader Cody McCoy
Devotional Benny Horton

Other

Prepare Communion for Oct..... Elana Carroll

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Mickey DeDear..... Oct. 19
Corinne Flonnory..... Oct. 20
Pam Stryker..... Oct. 22
Maya McCoy..... Oct. 22
Desmon Flonnory..... Oct. 24
Mary Jo White..... Oct. 24

Anniversaries

Zain & Kendall Terry Oct. 21

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Don't forget to download our new member directory app – Lightpost. Setup instructions are on the table in the foyer. If your email is not in the directory, get with Cody and he can add you.



Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 12, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....62
A.M. Worship.....104
P.M. Worship.....63
Wednesday Worship.....68

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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