

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

- I. What is the HEART? It is the “well spring” or control center for life.
 - “A person’s life is a reflection of his HEART” Ted Tripp.(Proverbs 4:23)
 - Our life is like a river and the HEART is the well spring of that river.
 - Without Jesus our HEART’S desires are wicked and vain, we are by nature pursuers of our own comfort, fame and prosperity.
 - Genesis 6:5- The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his HEART was only evil all the time.

- II. We can't change our HEART by simply changing our BEHAVIOR
 - The world is only looking to change our BEHAVIOR
 - Secular counseling tells us that we can make real change through BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION
 - The Bible tells us that God wants you to be more than just a good person; He wants you to be a true and genuine WORSHIPER (Luke 18:18-30)
 - Behavior Modification is conditioned in us from CHILDHOOD
 - Our goal in parenting is not to just raise obedient children, but to raise children who are obedient out of a HEART that loves Jesus.
 - God does not just clean up the trash downstream, but he goes all the way to the source of the river and purifies the heart.

- III. True CHRISTIANITY is more than behavior modification, it's a new HEART
 - This is what we call the doctrine of REGENERATION
 - When we become a Christian we get a new HEART, with all new DESIRES, controlled by the HOLY SPIRIT.
 - Ezekiel 36: 26-27- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
 - Regeneration: is the secret act of God in which He imparts new spiritual life to us. This is sometimes referred to as being “born again”.

14 CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW HEART IN PROVERBS

A new heart has or is:

Faith : proverbs 3:5- Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;

Obedience: 4:4- he taught me and said,
"Lay hold of my words with all your heart;
keep my commands and you will live.

Corrective-5:12- You will say, "How I hated discipline!
How my heart spurned correction!

Teachable 10:8- The wise in heart accept commands,
but a chattering fool comes to ruin.

Content 14:30- A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones.

Loves wisdom 15:14- The discerning heart seeks knowledge,
but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.

Cheerful 15:15- All the days of the oppressed are wretched,
but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.

Helpful 15:28- The heart of the righteous weighs its answers,
but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Discerning 16:21- The wise in heart are called discerning,
and pleasant words promote instruction.

Persuasive 16:23- A wise man's heart guides his mouth,
and his lips promote instruction.

Humble 18: 12- Before his downfall a man's heart is proud,
but humility comes before honor.

Intelligent 18:15- The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge;
the ears of the wise seek it out.

Beautiful 27:19- As water reflects a face,
so a man's heart reflects the man.

Repentant 28:14- Blessed is the man who always fears the LORD,
but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

**Delight yourself in the LORD and he will
give you the desires of your heart.
Psalm 37:4**