

Saturday, October 20, 2018—West Michigan Grace Bible Conference—Following Your Heart: Is It Really So Wrong?

### **Introduction**

- My purpose in this study is to establish the fact that believers are possessors of a clean heart in which the life of Christ resides. In doing so, we want to talk about how the facts of our identity in Christ runs ahead of our thinking. Our goal is to get our thinking about ourselves to line up with our identity of who God has made us in Christ.
- In the study we are going to be talking a lot about the heart. For the purposes of this study, when I am referring to the heart, I am not speaking about the physical organ in your chest but your immaterial spiritual heart.
- To accomplish these purposes, we will consider the following points:
  - Inward & Outward Man
  - The Lost Man's Heart
  - Operative Death Brings About New Life
  - The Believer's Heart
  - Conclusion

### **Inward & Outward Man**

- I Thessalonians 5:23—I believe based upon this verse that mankind is a trichotomous being, made in the image God (Gen. 1:26-27), possessing a body, a soul, and a spirit.
- Hebrews 4:12—only the word of God can discern the difference between the soul and spirit. Preachers, myself included, often try to explain the difference between the soul and spirit. While these studies are well intended, I have found that they often end up with making statements that seem to make sense but are not necessarily supported with verses.
- Instead of trying to explain the differences between soul and spirit, for the purposes of this lesson we will be more general and limit our discussion to the inner and outward man.
  - Ephesians 3:16—inner man or inward man (II Cor. 4:16) is the spiritual or immaterial part of a person. A person's soul, spirit, and heart reside in their inner man.
  - II Corinthians 4:16—the “outward man” is a reference to one's body.

### **The Lost Man's Heart**

- Ephesians 2:1-3—humans are “by nature the children of wrath.” As such we are born into this life with the wrath of God abiding upon us. Despite what some are asserting, belief in the FORGIVEN & RECONCILED LOST is a theological nonstarter.
- Jeremiah 17:9-10—mankind in his natural state has a heart problem. His heart is desperately wicked.
- Genesis 6:5— “every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
- Romans 1:21, 24—the state of a lost man's heart is that it is at enmity with God.
- Romans 2:5—speaks of a lost man's heart as being hard and impenitent.
- Ephesians 4:18—the heart of an unsaved gentile is “blind” it is not able to understand or process spiritual truth.
- A lost man's heart is described as being:
  - Deceitful above all things & desperately wicked
  - Only evil continually—in terms of imagination(s) & thoughts
  - At enmity with God
  - Hard & impenitent
  - Blind & not able to understand or process spiritual truth

### **Operative Death Brings About New Life**

- Colossians 2:11-12—at the moment of salvation God performed a spiritual operation on the new believer. The life of Christ was infused into the believer's soul and spirit (inner man) which was then circumcised or cut away from “the body of sins of the flesh.”
  - Where before there was death, sin, and corruption now there is forgiveness of sins (Col. 2:13) and life brought about “through the faith of the operation of God.” Believers have experienced an inner man renovation.
- Colossians 2:12—this operation was performed through baptism or identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection which resulted in the death of the old man and the formation of a new creature.
  - Romans 6:3-7—believers have been freed from “the body of sins of the flesh” (Col. 2:11) that “henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:6).

- Romans 6:8-11—believers need to “reckon” that what is true about Christ is also true of them. While we were once the slaves of sin we are now “alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 6:11).
- Romans 6:12-14—believers don’t have to let sin reign anymore in our mortal bodies. Our members are now capable of being the “instruments of righteousness unto God.”
- Romans 6:15-19—we are now the servants of righteousness.
- Romans 6:20, 22—believers have been “made free from sin.”
- II Corinthians 5:17—for those who are in Christ all things have become new. Does this include the believer’s heart? I believe that it does.

### **The Believer’s Heart**

- On the basis of the finished work of Christ and his shed blood as the only total complete payment for our sins the believer has under gone a heart transplant. Our core problem has been rectified and changed by the blood of Christ.
- Romans 5:5—“. . . the love of God is shed abroad into our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
- II Corinthians 1:22—God has given us “the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”
- II Corinthians 4:3-6—where there used to be blindness and darkness God has shined the light of truth into our hearts.
- Galatians 4:6—the Spirit of God resides within your heart and is crying Abba Father right now as you listen to this message.
- Ephesians 3:17—Christ dwells in our hearts by faith.
- Ephesians 5:19—believers have the capacity to make melody in their hearts unto the Lord.
- Ephesians 6:5-6—believers have the capacity to serve their fleshly masters in singleness of heart “as unto Christ.” If one’s ability to do this comes from their heart, then there must not be anything wrong with a believer’s heart anymore.
- Colossians 3:15-16—believers can let the peace of God “rule” in their hearts. Before we were saved our heart was in a state of enmity against God.
- I Timothy 1:5—the believer’s heart is pure before God. Why? Because God the Holy Spirit lives in your heart and cries Abba Father.

- II Timothy 2:22

### Conclusion

- On the basis of the blood of Christ, God almighty performed open heart surgery upon us. He cleaned us up at our very core. He took our vial and sinful heart and placed his Spirit within it. Thereby making us alive to life of God and providing us with the capacity to do the will of God from the heart.
- Therefore, God is good with who we are at our very core. Our identity in Christ is perfect and includes the following:
  - All spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3)
  - Chosen in Christ (Eph. 1:4)
  - Holy & Without Blame (Eph. 1:4)
  - Adoption of sons into the family of God (Eph. 1:5, Gal. 4:5, Rom. 8:15)
  - Accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6)
  - Redemption through his blood (Eph. 1:7)
  - Total forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7)
  - Abounded toward in wisdom & prudence (Eph. 1:8)
  - Justified and at peace with God (Rom. 5:1)
  - Joint-Heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:17)
  - Sanctified (I Cor. 1:2, 6:11)
  - Possessor of the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16)
  - Regenerated (Titus 3:5)
  - Unblameable & Unreproveable in His sight (Col. 1:22)
  - Temple of God (I Cor. 3:16)

- Not appointed to wrath (I Thess. 5:9)
  - Seated in heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 2:6)
  - Sealed by God the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30)
  - Complete in Christ (Col. 2:10)
- These are God's divine declarations reading our identity, who we truly are. The truth regarding who we are in Christ runs out ahead of our thinking. When God the Father looks at us he sees us a perfect in his son.
  - We have a new heart. Christ is in our heart. The Holy Spirit cries Abba Father from within our heart. At our very core, the essence of who we are is well pleasing unto God. We have received the total and complete redemption of our inner man.
  - So then why do we struggle so much to manifest the life of Christ in our mortal flesh? Why do we find ourselves so often running after things that are sinful, harmful, and unbeneficial? Why do we find ourselves doing the very things that we don't want to do?
  - If the problem is not with our inner man than it must reside somewhere else. We will look at this during my second study later this evening.