

Last Week Summary:

- The Father's heart is capable of being grieved.
- The Father's heart is capable of deep emotion.
 - Vengeance (Passion for Justice) The Wrath of God.
 - Yearning for His lost children.
 - Compassion warm and tender.
 - Recoils from meting judgment.
- The Father's heart is humble.
- The Father's heart is gentle.
- The Father's heart is Wise.
- The Father's heart is full of knowledge and wisdom.

The Heart of Humanity

I. Introduction

A. Created in His image! We too have a heart...604 times in ESV

B. *The Problem: The Heart is warm, compassionate, loving and desperately wicked! Sin problem...pervasive...a corrupted image...*

C. *The Solution: God's forgiveness in the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ: the washing of water in baptism, the infilling of the Holy Spirit...into the heart with the Father and the Son enabling His recreation of the heart.*

II. Characteristics of the Heart

Desire for love....

Desire for significance....

Desire for meaning....

Desire for oneness/transformation

Desire for worship/oneness with the Creator

The Law written there

The sinful and embittered avoidance of all of these

A. *Generosity or Stinginess:*

1) Exodus 35. 21 And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. 22 So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the Lord.



❖ 2) (Acts 5:3) "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!"

B. *Love or Hatred*

❖ 1) (Mat 22:37) He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

❖ 2) (Prov 19:3) One's own folly leads to ruin, yet the heart rages against the LORD.

C. *The originator of sin, the place of holiness:*

❖ 1) (Psa 36:1) Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in their hearts; there is no fear of God before their eyes. (Psa 14:1) Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do

abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. (Mat 15:19) For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander.

- ❖ 2) (Psa 40:8) I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."(Mat 5:8) "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (Psa 24:3) Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

D. The Heart is the place of wisdom

- ❖ 1) (Prov 2:6) For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice and preserving the way of his faithful ones. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; prudence will watch over you; and understanding will guard you.
- ❖ 2) (Psa 51:6) You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ❖ 3) (Psa 111:10) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.
- ❖ 4) (Prov 9:10) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

E. The Heart is the place of depth sorrow and joy

- ❖ 1) (Prov 12:25) Anxiety weighs down the human heart, but a good word cheers it up.
- ❖ 3) (Prov 14:10) The heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger shares its joy.
- ❖ 4) (Prov 15:13) A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken.
- ❖ 5) (Prov 25:20) Like vinegar on a wound is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. Like a moth in clothing or a worm in wood, sorrow gnaws at the human heart.
- ❖ 6) (Joel 2:12) Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
- ❖ 7) (Joel 2:13) rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.
- ❖ 9) (John 16:22) So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.
- ❖ 10) (Rom 9:2) I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.
- ❖ 11) (2 Cor 2:4) For I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.
- ❖ 12) (2 Cor 6:11) We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return--I speak as to children--open wide your hearts also.
- ❖ 13) (2 Cor 7:2) Make room in your hearts for us; we have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one. I do not say this to condemn you, for I said before that you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.
- ❖ 14) (Col 3:15) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

- ❖ 15) (Col 3:21) Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.
- ❖ 16) (1 Pet 1:22) Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.
- ❖ 17) 1 Pet 3:8) Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

F. The heart is the place of God's dwelling in us:

1) (Rev 3:1) 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

2). (John 14:15) If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, 1 to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

25 These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

III. AEI

- A. The failure to know the heart leads to a Christianity of "Men without Chests" brains without hearts.
- B. No true ministry w/o understanding the category of the heart; deep places...
- C. Why Jesus said "Unless you become as children..."
- D. Children live from their hearts...not yet embittered, silencing and crushing heart from pain and sin
- E. Often the answer is in the heart though the mind does not yet understand
- F. Ex: Pastor Dr. Jim Cecy..."I wept for you and for your people..."
- G. Longest journey for any adult: from the mind to the heart...

Ancient Father:

"Stand before God with your mind in your heart and stand before him thus all the days of your life." We will see next week how God heals the broken heart; how he searches the heart and how we hear Him speak in the heart and how we are given a circumcised heart to love Him and one another!

