

WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Genesis 3:9 Where art thou? (First question God asks man in the Bible) Do you respond, "Here am I" or do you hide yourself? The reason why people won't come to the light (John 3:19-21).

What is the heart anyway?

*There are Two Hearts: Natural vs. Spiritual

If you are saved you have two hearts in you. You have natural, carnal mind, which is at enmity with God. Then you have a spiritual mind, which is the same mind as Christ (He does dwell in your body after all!). It's the lusts of the flesh vs. the lusts of the Spirit: Who is going to win in you? Your Desires or God's?

Natural/Carnal/Fleshly Mind

Genesis 6:5 (1st mention) Thoughts come from the heart. The word in Hebrew is LEVAV. Strong's defines it as "it used (figuratively) very widely for the feelings, the will and even the intellect; likewise for the centre of anything"

Genesis 8:21 The heart is evil from the youth

Ecclesiastes 9:3 The heart of man is full of evil

Jeremiah 17:9 -10 Your natural heart

Manifestations of the heart:

Matthew 15:9-20 What comes out of the heart

Galatians 5:19-21 The works of the flesh

Carnal Mind: Romans 8:6-9, Romans 7:18, Romans 8:13

Mortify - To subdue or bring into subjection, as the bodily appetites by abstinence or rigorous severities; To subdue; to abase; to humble; to reduce; to restrain; as inordinate passions.

Deuteronomy 10:16 Circumcise your hearts (1st mention)

This means to cut away that part of your heart, that is your feelings, your emotions, your will, your thoughts, your fleshly lusts – sinful ones. See 1 John 2:15-17.

Circumcision hurts. 1 Peter 4:1-3 He that suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.

Spiritual Mind/New Heart

Titus 3:4 Regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost

Ephesians 4:22-24 Renewed in the spirit of our mind

1 Corinthians 2:16 We have the mind of Christ in us

Philippians 2:5-8 This is the mind of Christ according to Scripture

Manifestation of this heart:

Galatians 5:22-25

What Else?

Deuteronomy 6:5 All thine heart

Romans 10:9-13 Salvation comes from believing with the heart

Deuteronomy 4:9 Take heed to yourself, keep your soul lest it departs from your heart.

How do you take heed to yourself (Psalm 119:9)

Deuteronomy 4:29 You will find the LORD when you seek after him with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 5:26-29 God wishes there was such a heart in you!

Knowing the heart

Proverbs 27:19 You look into your heart, you know who you are

How to do get things fixed:

1. You must first of all examine your heart and confess and repent of your sins (2 Corinthians 13:5) Ask the Lord to reveal it to you (Psalm 26:2, Philippians 3:15). He will forgive you and his blood will cleanse you (1 John 1:9). Don't regard sin in your heart, if you do, the Lord will not hear you (Psalm 66:18). Get rid of all sin, circumcise your heart, be purposed in your heart not to transgress.

2. Start walking in the Light (1 John 1:5-7). In other words, if we are keeping his commandments we are living in the light, and we have fellowship with the Lord and will manifest himself to us (1 John 5:3, 3:18; John 14:15, 14:21-24, 15:9-14).

Closing Thoughts:

Galatians 5:16-17 Walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh

Psalm 17:1-3 You won't find wickedness in my heart Lord!

We are called to have fellowship with the LORD

1 Corinthians 1:9, Philippians 2:1, 1 John 1:3

What is fellowship? It is defined as companionship, association, partnership, company (state of being together), frequency of intercourse (referring to social interaction, talking to each other), fondness, and communion: a relationship.

God sure did go through a lot of trouble to restore fellowship between himself and mankind. He put up with and continues to put up with wickedness and sin, not just from the devil's children, but from his own. He came and lived among us and suffered and bled and died and rose again to take away our sins. He's reconciled us to himself by his blood. Sin is what separated God and man in the beginning, and it is what will continue to separate God and man today, saved or lost. This doesn't mean you can lose your salvation but it does mean your fellowship with the Lord can be broken. And the way it is restored is by confessing and repenting of yours, and starting to walk back in the light again, not doing your own will, but God's will.

Where is your heart? Part 2

"You can be doing 'right' without God."

One of the things that I have seen in Scripture is that you can be doing "right", keeping commandments, witnessing, preaching, etc and still be far from God and be without God.

Read Isaiah 58

Examples of doing "right" without God

1. "Morals" without God - doing good for goodness sake instead of God's? Having a

form of godliness (2 Timothy 3:5)

2. Pharisees (Acts 26:5, Matthew 11:16-19, 23:1-7, 15:7-9) They professed to believe the book, they kept the commandments, they believed in the fundamentals of the faith, but their heart was far from the Lord. So all that is in vain!
3. "Humanism" They care more about the creature than the creator (Romans 1:25). Even though they are doing good works, it is without God.
4. "Kingdom Builders/Bringing Peace on Earth" Their intentions are right, but they are in sin because it is not God's way. They want to do it without God. Why is that?
5. "United Nations" They quote Isaiah 2:4 but they leave out God. Doing right without God is not right, it is sin!
6. Anybody that is doing "right" without a sincere, loving, relationship with God!

Why do people do these things or want to do these things without God? Could it be that they want to rob the glory from God? They think works will get you to God and it won't (Romans 9:30-33, 10:1-4). They seek after righteousness by works, but it's by faith. You must submit yourself to God's righteousness. Ahh there it is, people don't like to submit to anybody except their own will. Therein lies the problem and therein lies the sin. Here comes up the ego, the pride of man, and his self-centeredness. Thank God for the blood of Christ that took away my sin! I can't wait to get my new body, never more to sin! The problem is people don't like to submit to God and lean upon his everlasting arms wholly. We all struggle with this I'm sure.

Look at John 5:39-47.

This is an interesting passage in the Bible. He says that those people thought that in the Scriptures they have eternal life, but the Scriptures are what testify of Jesus, (And here it is) "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." The Scriptures should point you towards the Lord Jesus Christ and a relationship with him. They testify of him, to the end that you would go to him and get to know him! But again, we see a problem with the heart of man. These people wouldn't come to Jesus for some reason. Maybe it was because they didn't really believe the Scriptures, or maybe it was because they didn't really love God, or maybe because it was they were seeking honor and praise from everybody else except the one that matters, God himself.

Just because you know the book, or are in the book, doesn't mean you have a relationship with God. The book is not God, it is written by him, he speaks to us through it, but do you speak back to God? Why not? A good sign of ANY relationship is COMMUNICATION from BOTH parties, Amen?

It seems like the problem is that man wants to do things, even right things, but he wants to do it without God. This goes back to Genesis 3. If man wanted to do the right things with God, there would be communication with God and a willingness to do and not do whatever the Lord tells him. He would be like the Saviour and say, "nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). This is really the litmus test to see if your relationship with God is the way it should be.

Signs of a Problem in your relationship with the Father and the Son

1. Backslider in heart (Proverbs 14:14) You are filled more with your ways than God's.
2. Prayer life decreases

3. Joy in the Lord decreases
4. Praising the Lord decreases
5. Reading the Bible decreases
6. Charity and love decreases
7. Seeking the Lord decreases

If 2-6 decreases, and the whole hearted willingness to do those things decreases, there is a problem somewhere. Has your desire and love for the Lord waxed cold? Do you have a lack of care for your spiritual life? If so, something is amiss. Find it out. Ask God to show it to you, repent of it, and move on.

Remember what Samuel said to Saul, "Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." (1 Samuel 15:22). God is more concerned with your obedience and subjection to him, than your offerings and sacrifices.

Look at 1 Samuel 15:1-3. The LORD commands Saul to utterly destroy Amalek and all they have, including men, women, and children, the ox, sheep, camel, and ass. What did Saul do? He smote the Amalekites, (1) but took the king Agag alive, (2) and spared the best of sheep, oxen, fatlings, lambs, and all that was good and would not destroy them (1 Samuel 15:7-9). Saul then says to Samuel, Bless God I performed what the LORD commanded me to do. And Samuel says, well how come I hear about the sheep and oxen. And he said I have spared the best of the sheep and oxen to sacrifice unto the LORD (1 Samuel 15:12-15).

Do you see that? Saul tries to justify his disobedience to what God specifically told him to do by saying I had good intentions, I was going to offer this to the Lord. However God did not tell him to do that! He told him to destroy everything and Saul did not. The LORD goes on to say that he did evil in his sight and has not obeyed the LORD; therefore the LORD has rejected him from being king since he rejected the word of the LORD.

This brings us to another point: don't do anything unless God tells you to do it. Remember your offerings and sacrifice and works are in vain and meaningless if it is not in obedience to God. If God tells you to do something, do it, if not, don't do it. Seek his face for an answer and he will give you one, but your heart needs to be right in order to receive one. Just because something is right to do doesn't mean God wants you to do it. Consider this example in 1 Samuel 15, the law does talk about offering sacrifice to God, Saul thought his intentions were good, and offering something to the Lord and doing something for the Lord is a good thing, UNLESS he tells you not to do it! This is where obedience and submission and "not my will but thine be done" come in. And this is really what your fellowship with the Lord is dependant upon.

Is your heart fully set to seek after the Lord, and do anything, no matter what, God commands you to do? Are you willing to stop anything if God told you to stop? If so, your relationship with the Lord is where it ought to be. You are walking in the light (1 John 1:7). You are humble, obedient, and submitted to the will of the LORD. O the joy there is there! The peace! Amen?