

Introduction:

- Three weeks ago I started a new series on What's In Your Heart Defines You.
- I started by asking several questions. What are you producing??? How do people recognize you?? When God looks at your heart what are you known by? Two scriptures we started with.
 - *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."* (Matthew 12:34, ESV)
 - *"The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."* (Luke 6:45, ESV)
- What is in your heart defines you, how others see you. And, God is a God who looks at the heart and not the outside. Jesus is concerned about the condition of our heart, or what is in our heart because He is looking for us to produce good things! We talked about the Kardia - heart of the city. The heart is the main thoroughfare of you life!
- Second week: There is a battle for the heart that is taking place. It is being fought in the mind. And who or what controls the mind controls the quality of what we produce in our lives. Jesus wants our heart to be His treasury! Jesus said, *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* (Luke 12:34, ESV) Tim Franklin translation: *"Show me what you treasure and I will show you your heart."* *"Where you deposit your treasure, that is where your thoughts will turn to—and your heart will long to be there also."* (Luke 12:34, TPT)

I. The Heart Must Be Made Alive

- A. The condition of man at birth is that he is spiritually dead. Here is the reason why:
 1. Adam and Eve disobeyed the direction given to them by God. As they were in the garden, God spoke first to Adam and later we hear Eve answer the serpent with what was given to Adam by God.
 - a) God says to Adam, *"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."* (Genesis 2:17, NKJV)
 - b) When they ate they were made to perceive good and evil. They died spiritually.
 2. The result of their disobedience was spiritual death.
 - a) *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive."* (1 Cor 15:22, NKJV)
 - b) *"For since death came through a man, Adam, it is fitting that the resurrection of the dead has also come through a man, Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:21, TPT)
 - c) Catholic tradition and others baptize babies. Baptizing babies does not save them. God's mercy is what saves them. His mercy! We are saved by grace through faith...Eph 2:8-9
- B. Therefore, "Fallen man is wrong before God, not because of what he does or has done but because but because of who he is." The Gospel of Identity, Mike Petzer.
 1. In other words our fallen nature is death and we are called dead in our trespasses and sin. *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,"* (Ephesians 2:1, NKJV)
 2. Again in Colossians, *"And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,"* (Colossians 2:13, NKJV)

- C. Because fallen man is wrong before God he must be born again or born from above is the literal translation of Jn 3:3,7. This is what Jesus told Nicodemus the Pharisee who came to Him by night. Jesus was telling Nicodemus, "You need to be saved."
1. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."* (John 3:16-17, ESV)
 - a) God did not send Jesus to condemn the world but to save it!
 - b) Those who receive Jesus and believe in him are considered/called...SAVED!
 - c) Eternal Zoe!
 2. 1 Cor 15:22 *"in Christ all shall be made alive."*
 3. Col. 2:13 *"He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,"* (Col 2:13, NKJV)
 4. Eph 2:1 *"He made you alive."*
- D. When you are born from above/made alive in Christ–You are now a new creation in Christ, alive in Christ, saved by Christ. Everyone is either of Adam, therefore dead, lost separated from God or In Christ, therefore made alive, saved, born again.
- E. So, what is in your heart defines you. Death or life. This is one reason why it is important to be born again. We want a heart that is alive to God and to one another. So what do I do with my bad habits, sin, wrongs things I do and say after being born again?

II. The Mind Must Be Renewed

- A. My spirit is born again, raised to new life...but I still have my same old brains. Two things we must understand: One, what happens when I sin. Two, how do I change?
- B. One, What happens when I sin?
1. You grieve the heart of God. You do not die spiritually.
 2. If you sin...*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9, ESV)
 3. When I sin, I turn to God not away from Him. The devil will always try to get you to turn away from God. He will accuse you... "See, you have not changed." "You are not saved, if you were you would quit sinning." Accusations always separate from God.
 4. Therefore I turn to God, confess my sin. Get up and move on with Him.
- C. I must renew my mind with God's word! Ro 12:1-2. *"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* (Romans 12:1-2, ESV)
1. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind! Metamorpho - IE. Like a worm to a butterfly.
 2. I renew my mind with the Word. Watch how many times heart is mention in the following.
 - a) Pro. 2:2 apply your heart to understanding.
 - b) "for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;" (Proverbs 2:10, ESV)
 - c) let your heart keep my commandments Prov 3:1

- d) *"Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."* (Proverbs 3:3-5, ESV)
- e) *"he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live."* (Proverbs 4:4, ESV)
- f) You become a great Christian by treasuring the Word of God and hiding it in your heart. *"I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."* (Psalm 119:11, ESV) I.e. Peter *began to sink*. Mt 14:30

III. The Word Is The Treasure Put In A New Heart

- A. So, if I have a heart that is alive and not dead, and I fill it with God's Word—My heart is the place where the true treasure of the Kingdom of God are kept. Show me what is in your heart and I will tell you what kind of heart you have. *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* (Matthew 6:21, ESV)
 - 1. *"The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil."* (Matthew 12:35, ESV)
 - 2. *"For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."* (Mark 7:21-23, ESV)
- B. Jesus said if we believe we would be saved but He also said this: *"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' "* (John 7:38, ESV)
- C. *"One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul."* (Acts 16:14, ESV)

Conclusion:

- Jesus said we must be born again!
- And here is how Paul the apostle described it: *"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9, ESV) *"For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."* (Romans 10:10, ESV)
 - Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord
 - Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead
 - You will be saved! *"But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—"* (1 Corinthians 2:9, ESV)
- Here is what He leaves us: *"But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—"* (1 Corinthians 2:9, ESV)