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BCDASoCal Fall Conference Weekend 2 Hour 2

## **Getting to Heart Issues**

Introduction: Why do we do what we do? What are some secular theories?

### I. The three trees diagram

Refer to diagram

### II. Biblical view of why we do what we do

- Mark 7:22-23
- Proverbs 4:23
- Jeremiah 17:9

### III. Biblical definitions

#### A. Brown, Driver, and Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Lexicon

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)
- f)
- g)

#### B. Theological Workbook of the Old Testament

#### C. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

### IV. Thoughts on the heart

#### A. Your heart has “thoughts”

B. Your heart has “intentions” – what does this **mean**?

C. Secular theories of human motivation

D. Total Depravity - The sin nature is primary, your environment is a secondary “cause.”

E. Conclusions

- The “heart” is not fundamentally good for the unbeliever.
- As a Christian, united with Christ, you struggle with unruly wants, sinful desires, wrong drives, “needs,” sinful passions, misplaced expectations, “remnant sin” even though we are a new creation in Christ. Sanctification still must happen in the heart.
- Your “heart” is alive, not empty or passive
- It takes work to understand – Proverbs 20:5

V. It’s all about worship

A. We were made to be worshipers of the true and living God

- Romans 11:36 (cf. also I Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16)
- I Cor. 10:31

B. We turn to other things (other “gods”). What are substitute gods called?

- Romans 1:25

An idol of the heart is *anything that rules me other than God* [his emphasis]. As worshiping beings, human beings always worship someone or something. This is not a situation where some people worship and some people don’t. If God isn’t ruling my heart, someone or something will. It is the way we were made.”

(Paul Tripp – *Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands*)

C. Proof that all humans, of all time, are “religious”

- Indicators of doing something “religiously” (e.g. a man and his job)
- What are you “religious” about? What is your value system?

#### D. Understanding the first and second commandment (Ex. 20:1-6)

- cf. also Isaiah 42:5-13
- Isaiah 44:6-20

#### E. Psalm 18 – A template

- Rock
- Fortress
- Deliverer
- Refuge

“A god is that which we look for all good and in which we find refuge in every time of need. To have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe him with our whole heart. As I have often said, the trust and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol... That to which our heart clings and entrusts itself is, I say, really your God.” - Martin Luther

#### VI. Suggested themes to explore for yourself

- 1. Comfort**
- 2. Pleasure**
- 3. Sports**
- 4. Control**
- 5. Entertainment**
- 6. Food**
- 7. Education**
- 8. People**
- 9. Success**

“The human heart is like a cauldron constantly bubbling forth idols.” (John Calvin)

“To make matters worse, this idolatry is hidden. It is deceptive; it exists underground. We can make this great exchange without forsaking our confessional theology or even our observance of the external duties of the faith. So we hold onto our beliefs, tithe, remain faithful in church attendance, and occasionally participate in ministry activity. Yet at the level of what we are really living for, we have forsaken God for something else. This is the silent cancer that weakens the church, robs individuals of their spiritual vitality, and leads to all kinds of difficulties in

relationships and situations. At its core, sin is moral thievery. It steals the worship that rightly belongs to God and gives it to someone else. It robs the Trinity to purchase the creation. Every sinner is in some way a worship thief. At its center, sin is also spiritual adultery. It takes the love that belongs to God alone and gives it to someone or something else. It is a life shaped by satisfaction of cravings, rather than be heartfelt commitment and faithfulness. Every sinner is in some way a spiritual adulterer."

(Paul Tripp – *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*)

Recommended Reading:

*Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* – Paul Tripp

*The Peacemaker* – Ken Sande (especially chapter 5)

*We Become what We Worship* – G.K. Beale

"X-Ray Questions" by David Powlison (chapter 7 in, *Seeing with New Eyes*)

*Idols of the Heart*—Elyse Fitzpatrick