

A Circumcised Heart

Deut. 10: 16 “Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more.”

Rom. 2:29 “But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.”

I. Importance Of The Heart

The heart is the center of physical condition.

Who is stronger, huge man with weak heart, or little man with strong heart?

Think of all the figures of speech based on it.

It is also commonly used metaphorically by all the people of the world to speak of our attitudes, emotions, convictions, strength, etc.

Physical strength – *heart of a lion*

Attitudes – *heart of stone, soft or tender hearted*

Conviction – *with all my heart, whole-hearted*

Love – *from the heart, with the heart*

Emotion – *heartsick, heart-felt*

A. Spiritual Qualities Of The Heart

1.) Intellect

Thinks/Understands

Matt. 9:4 “And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, ‘Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?’”

Matt. 13:15 “FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.”

1 Kings 3:9 “So give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?”

Believes

Rom. 10:10 “for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Doubts

Mark. 11:23 “Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him.”

The scriptures also talk about it pondering (Mark 11:23), reasons (Mark 2:6) and judges (Jn. 3:20)

2.) Emotions

Loves

Matt. 22:37 “And 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.”

Despises

2 Sam. 6:16 “Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.”

Rejoices

Ps. 33:21 “For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name.”

And can be joyful, sorrowful and can be swept away.

3.) Will

Determination

1 Cor. 7:37 “But he who stands firm in his heart, being under no constraint, but has authority over his own will, and has decided this in his own heart, to keep his own virgin daughter, he will do well.”

Purposes

2 Cor. 9:7 “Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

It can obey or disobey.

II. Attributes Of A Circumcised Heart

A. Loves God

Deut. 30:6 “Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, in order that you may live.”

B. Repents of Evil Deeds

Jer. 4:4 “Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My wrath go forth like fire And bum with none to quench it, Because of the evil of your deeds.”

C. Humble And Confesses Sin

Lev. 26:40-42 “If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their unfaithfulness which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me

41 I also was acting with hostility against them, to bring them into the land of their enemies – or if their uncircumcised heart becomes humbled so that they then make amends for their iniquity,

42 then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and I will remember also My covenant with Isaac, and My covenant with Abraham as well, and I will remember the land.”

D. Applications

1.) Sinful Habits

What can we knowingly persist in doing if without hardening our heart toward God?

2.) Humble Spirit

What is your attitude towards Christ, the church, and the brethren?

3.) Personal Priorities

a.) Time

b.) Money

c.) Care For Others

Do you visit the shut-ins, those in nursing homes, the sick?

It is a requirement that we do this, isn't it?

Jas. 1:17 “This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

d.) Children

Do you teach them God's word and take time to correct and instruct them?

Deut. 6:6,7 “And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; **7** and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

e.) Example

Are you a godly example and a light to all those round about?

f.) Attendance

g.) Study

How much time do you spend with the word of God?

h.) Prayer

Do you pray daily, and privately, and as often as you should?

Conclusion:

So Set Your Heart To Do Right:

Ezra 7:10 “For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.”

Then Walk In Integrity of Heart

1 Kings 9:4 “And as for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances”

Knowing That The Lord Will Judge Your Heart

1 Sam. 16:7 “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

II. Attributes Of Uncircumcised Hearts

A. Uncircumcised Hearts Are Profane

Ezk. 44:6,7 “And you shall say to the rebellious ones. to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD, "Enough of all your abominations, O house of Israel,

7 when you brought in foreigners, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in My sanctuary to profane it, even My house, when you offered My food, the fat and the blood; for they made My covenant void -- this in addition to all your abominations.”

8 And you have not kept charge of My holy things yourselves, but you have set foreigners to keep charge of My sanctuary.”

9 Thus says the Lord GOD, “No foreigner, uncircumcised in heart and uncircumcised in flesh, of all the foreigners who are among the sons of Israel, shall enter My sanctuary.”

They did not respect anything that God has said. Not His Temple regulations, not His commandments, not any of the things that God directed.

These people simply didn't care. They were going to live in their own way.

God said, “Keep them out of my temple.”

B. Uncircumcised Hearts Resist The Holy Spirit

In the New Testament the Jews were very particular about the regulations of the Temple, even charging Paul with bring in a devout man who was a Gentile when he was not.

But they still didn't respect God's will.

Acts 7:51-53 “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.

52 Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become;

53 you who received the law as ordained by angels, and *yet* did not keep it.”

They had made up their own regulations and rules that replaced those that God gave.

You can be very religious and still uncircumcised at heart.

Do you mind that things of man, or of self, or of God?

The stubborn heart is best seen by refusal to repent.

Rom. 2:5 “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God”

C. Closely Related To Stiff Necked

1.) Will Not Listen

Neh. 9:29 “And admonished them in order to turn them back to Thy law. Yet they acted arrogantly and did not listen to Thy commandments but sinned against Thine ordinances, By which if a man observes them he shall live. And they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck, and would not listen.”

Jer. 17:23 “Yet they did not listen or incline their ears, but stiffened their necks in order not to listen or take correction.”

2.) Did Not Believe

2 Kings 17:14 “However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.”

3.) Family Trait

No, not necessarily particular family, but family of man.

2 Kings 17:14 “However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.”

Jer. 7:26 “Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did evil more than their fathers.”

D Uncircumcised Heart Reverses Physical Circumcision

Jer. 9:25,26 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised-

26 Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the sons of Ammon, and Moab, and all those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.”

Some of the Jews actually did try to undo their circumcision. After the Greeks became the dominant force in the region, many Jews tried to become like them. Because the Greeks loved public baths, and nudity was common in their exercises Jewish men tried to erase the signs of the Judaism and fit in better. In God's eyes this unsavory practice was useless in that it was redundant. They were uncircumcised of heart already, so it was of little matter what they did to the body.

The rebellious heart overpowered their circumcision.

The parallel today would be the willful heart overpowers the fact that you were baptized, formerly faithful, that you worship in proper forms, etc.

You must have the heart right, and tender enough to do God's will.

Joyful And Sorrowful

Prov. 15:13 “A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirits broken.”

Swept Away

2 Sam. 15:6 “And in this manner Absalom dealt with all Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole away the hearts of the men of Israel.”

Song 4:9 “You have made my heart beat faster, my sister, my bride; You have made my heart beat faster with a single glance of your eyes, With a single strand of your necklace.”

Ponders

Luke 2:19 “But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”

Reasons

Mark 2:6 “But there were some of the scribes sitting there and reasoning in their hearts”

Obeys

Rom. 6:17 “But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed”

B. How Will You Use It?

Think on these things – it's your choice.

Phil. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.”

All of these things can be used for good or evil.

Carnal minded = death.

Rom. 8:6 “For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,”

The question is, how is our heart inclined?

Prov. 22:17 “Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your mind to my knowledge”

Jer. 7:24 “Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart, and went backward and not forward.”

Then, is your heart circumcised or not? - In all these areas above?

Money

We have had 15 years of economic expansion. Wages have increased, but has the contribution? If we can't give now, when can we give?

Luke 21:1-4 “And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury.

2 And He saw a certain poor widow putting in two small copper coins.

3 And He said, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all of them;

4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on."

Small churches look for preachers. Overseas work wanes for lack of men, and men who are overseas or are willing to go overseas for lack of support.

Gospel preacher – "Never in my whole life has it been so hard to get Christians to come to services. I don't know how we expect non-Christians to come if the faithful can't even get here."

We have built more houses in the last year than any other time in American history how many *church houses have been built?*

Of the few that are built – is it because of out growing the building, or just the same people moving to a nicer neighborhood? When building are renovated, most seat less than before balconies are taken out. So we make it nicer for the few instead of set for the many?