

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Watch Over Your Heart

Dave Bechtel | Proverbs 4:23 | October 13, 2019

DISCUSSION

1. Read Proverbs 4:23-27. Verse 23 states, "everything you do flows from your heart" (NIV). Describe the relationship between the heart and our actions. See Matthew 6:21 and 12:34.
2. Whatever our heart loves, our eyes are drawn to see, and our ears are drawn to hear. Matthew 6:21 says, "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Name some things that dominate the desires of your eyes and that tickle your ears. These may be good or bad things.
3. Often, our perception of our heart is different from what others may say, based on our actions. Read Psalm 139:23-24. What is crucial in these verses? What remedy is given in verse 24b, and why is this phrase important?
4. John 3:16 says God loves everyone, yet Proverbs 10:20 says, "the heart of the wicked is of little value." How do you reconcile these verses?
5. Share a time when your heart demonstrated power (negative influence), deceit, or foolishness. How can you guard against this? Clues can be found in Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 17:9-10, 1 Corinthians 14:24-25, and Ephesians 4:29-32.
6. The sermon included lists of Biblical heart descriptors, some desirable and some undesirable. Pick one or two from each list that your heart is prone toward.

APPLICATION

Pastor Dave mentioned three healthy heart habits: 1) watch what you take in, e.g., entertainment, 2) pursue fellowship and service, 3) deal quickly with anger, anxiety, doubt, greed, jealousy, etc. What is your action item this week to move toward a healthier heart?

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- I. Recognize the **responsibility**.
II Cor 2:11; 11:14; I Pet 5:8;
Eph 4:26; Jn 8:44; 10:10
 - A. It's **pivotal**.
Pr 10:20; Jer 13:1-10;
I Pet 3:3-4; Rev 2:23;
Ps 90:12
 - B. It's **perilous**.
 1. Your heart is **powerful**.
Rom 1:18-24, 28; Is 44:20;
Matt 19:8
 2. Your heart is **tricky**.
Jer 17:9; Ps 36:1-2;
Js 1:26; Titus 2:11-12;
Pr 7:25; 23:17, 19-20; 24:17
 3. Your heart is naturally **foolish**.
Pr 22:15; 28:26
- II. Learn to **discern**.
 - A. The **Scripture**.
Matt 13:1-8, 18-23;
Acts 2:37; Pr 19:3;
Js 1:20; Ps 119:11
 - B. The **Spirit**.
Jer 17:9-10; Ps 26:2;
Eph 4:30; I Thess 5:19
 - C. Other **people**.
I Cor 14:24-25;
Acts 8:20-23
 - D. **Output**
Matt 12:34b, 37; Lk 19:22;
Eph 4:29, 31-32; 5:3-4;
Is 66:2
- III. Take **action** while we **can**.
 - A. **Long** term: **practice** healthy **heart** habits.
 - B. **Short** term: act **immediately** when we **discern** a **heart** problem.
Rev 3:20