



## **The Heart of Man vs. The Heart of God**

### **Session 2 of “A God Heart Vs. An Evil Heart” Series**

**The Bible is full of information about the heart. The heart is the center of who God is and who we are.**

**Most of the time when the Bible speaks about the heart, it is referring to the inner self, the character part of one’s being, and/or the inward thoughts that thinks, decides, and senses right from wrong. It is the center...not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of *human* life.**

**We also have to understand that when we refer to the Bible stating something, it is like God Himself speaking to us. The Word of God is a living document; inhaling and exhaling living truth. Picking up the Word of God and reading from it is really God speaking to us as a person would in conversation.**

**We need to respect the Word of God and make sure we never take it for granted. We are blessed beyond measure to have the living Word dwelling amongst us today... “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” John 1:1-4**

Several years ago Sherry and I were blessed to be asked to pick up Thomas Trask, the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, and his wife at the local airport to take them to their hotel, pick them up later for a speaking engagement at our church and then back to the hotel. We had some time left after the preaching assignment for a tour of a few sights in and around our church before they were ready for the night at the hotel. Just a few months had passed since the shooting tragedy that took place at Wedgwood Baptist Church. We had mentioned to Mr. Trask that Wedgwood Baptist was not far from our destination and they might want to see where this “never to be forgotten” tragedy had taken place. They agreed to our driving over to the church and seeing this area because he and the executive council in Springfield, Missouri, had been holding prayer services that included praying for the families who had lost loved ones in this senseless, demonic, and disgusting tragedy planned and carried out via Satan’s followers. Satan’s task is to steal, kill, and destroy God’s creation, especially dedicated Christian disciples.

While driving up on the west side of the church, we noticed a young man (18-25 year old) in the middle of the street ahead of us. He was wielding a skateboard and was acting very erratic and challenging as if he was on some type of hallucinating drug. As we approached him in the vehicle, he started running toward us swinging the skateboard, screaming with a screeching sound, and trying to hit our vehicle. Sherry and the Trasks screamed, “Get out of here. This man is crazy!” I made a quick turn with the man chasing me behind within 10’ of my car. I went from 2 mph to 50 mph in about 5 seconds (maybe exaggerated a bit). I watched the man in the rearview mirror while Sherry and the Trasks were still stating with all authority... “Get out of here!” We had seen a demonic and evil spirit in this man. We left the area as fast as we could. Sherry, being the evangelistic powerhouse she is, said, “Don’t you think we need to go back and pray for this man.” Mr. Trask said with a smile on his face, “Gerald, we will let Sherry go back to talk to the man after you take us back to the hotel.” We all laughed and cried at the same time. We knew we had seen a demon and it was not in our best interest to go beyond praying for the man...at least 5 miles away. As the song says, “You’ve got to know when hold them; know when to fold them; know when to walk away...and know when to run!” This man’s heart was in the “evil mode.” He did need Jesus...but, it wasn’t the right time to approach Satan’s demonic forces. Mr. Trask knew it, I knew it...and we didn’t need to hold a conference over it.

Some of you are probably thinking, “Sherry was right...and that we should get involved, take authority... and call on Jesus to remove the demon from this man.”

***In reading the Word, I can see that if the Holy Spirit’s prodding is not in something, don’t try it. Amen!***

*“Let those who love the Lord hate evil, For he guards the lives of his faithful ones And delivers them from the hand of the wicked.” (Psalms 97:10).*

***We were delivered from the hand of the wicked and we praised God for His protection!***

**Wickedness in people...Demonic forces...Evil actions...Evil intentions...are all characteristics of Satan followers. Evil hearts produce evil ways and means to achieve destruction of mankind.**

**With that in mind, let’s look at the heart WITHOUT GOD in it!**

**THE EVIL HEART:** *Genesis 6:5, “Then the Lord saw that man was very sinful on the earth. Every plan and thought of the **heart** of man was sinful always.”*

- This verse is concerning in that God states that “man was very sinful...every plan and thought was sinful always.” This was a “universal implication”... that man was determined to do evil.
- Notice, however, that man was not destined for evil...but, that man determined in his heart to do evil...BEING SINFUL ALWAYS.
- IT WAS A CHOICE MADE BY MAN...Yes, man returned to his own ways...vomiting out all the sin man can think and do to hurt the Heart of God!

**Man was destined for hell and the grave only because of his/her choices in life...not because God destined us for hell, while others were destined for heaven.**

***We were beyond saving if we look as man would look in the mirror and see the horrible image of SIN.***

**God did not leave us alone however! He made a way for us to be forgiven and made righteous in his sight.**

- ***He did that through a gift and a giving up of his most precious possession...His Son;*** the sacrificial lamb on the altar for our sin.

**Jesus paid it all. All to HIM I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain...HE washed it (me and you) white as snow.**

- ***It is not enough to simply say we are a sinner...or, we have sinned. That is much too trivial to really understand the heart of God. The Father giving up His only Begotten Son to die in our place...for our sinful hearts that are on display for our God to see and feel.***

***Why? Because He knew mankind, left to himself, would remain in sin and would not ever be able to enter His Kingdom where there is no sin.***

**We saw last week where Satan's (Lucifer's) desire was to be exalted above the Most High God, the One and Only Jehovah God. He was the guilty one because of his pride and arrogance...and was thrown (literally hurled) out of heaven to earth.**

***He is the one who tempts us to do evil. We are the ones who have a choice to follow Satan's evil heart, his evil ways...or, run from the evil one and follow God.***

**David was a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22). However, his heart and the Lord's heart did not always line up.**

**David is remembered as one of history's greatest sinners.**

**Sins of David:**

- **He vocally cast curses and destruction on people who disagreed with him.** David in Psalm 55 asks God to destroy and divide the tongues of (9) his friends who became his enemies. The curse is succinctly stated: "Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell" (15).
- **The grievous sin of adultery (with Bathsheba; another man's wife)**
- **Deceit (trying to cover up his sin)**
- **Premeditated murder (planning Uriah, Bathsheba's husbands murder.**
- **Failed to discipline his son (Absalom). Lack of Parental Guidance.**

***One sin brings on another sin.***

***Yes, David's heart was not always in tune or line up with the Lord's heart.***

**Neither does your heart, nor mine, always line up with God’s heart and His Word. We sometimes find ourselves in a predicament of failure to heed God’s Word, failure to stand firm and in line with God’s precepts, and falsely pretending everything is alright...when it is not. What do I mean by this statement?**

**Countless times in the Bible we are told to hate what is evil. The writer of Psalm 97 instructs us,**

*Let those who love the Lord hate evil, For he guards the lives of his faithful ones And delivers them from the hand of the wicked (Psalms 97:10).*

**Not only that, but we are told straight forward by the Lord in Amos 5:15a,**

*“Hate evil, love good; Maintain justice in the courts...”*

**We are to hate evil. God hates it too!**

*“Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I hated them there. Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house. I will no longer love them; All their leaders are rebellious.”*

**So in the hatred of evil, David and God are in agreement.**

However, as much as he hates wickedness, God’s heart is not a heart of curses and wrath like David’s. God doesn’t wish ill on anyone; but, because of wicked hearts, he cannot approve of or yield to overlooking sin in any form. The Lord explains in Ezekiel 18:32, *“For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”* Our God hates evil and unbelief, therefore he loves to forgive. In Isaiah 43:25, this is actually how the Lord identifies himself; he says, *“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”*

**Our God loves to forgive, something which we humans are a bit more stubborn about doing.**

The progression in David’s sin reveals a callousing of his heart, a hardening that would make him unable to return to Yahweh without the work of the Spirit through the Word of God ([John 3:5](#); [Heb. 4:12](#)). Like David, we too must repent when the Lord pierces our hearts ([2 Sam. 12:1–15a](#)) so that we may manifest that we are truly His.

**Our Lord believes in second chances.**

***Not only does the Lord believe in second chances, but he is able to show his immense glory in his ability to forgive.*** Our Lord does forgive, and at the cross, God (through Jesus), delivered forgiveness to everyone who would believe on His Son.



***Don't let non-believers get you down.*** Jesus says, “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son” (John 3:18). Those who deny the truth of our Lord stand condemned already.

**However, God says in Isaiah 1:18:**

<i>“Come now, let us reason together,”</i>
<i>Says the Lord.</i>
<i>“Though your sins are like scarlet,</i>
<i>They shall be as white as snow;</i>
<i>Though they are red as crimson,</i>
<i>They shall be like wool.”</i>

Jesus reminds us how simple it is to accept the gift of forgiveness (and with that, eternal life) from the Lord when he says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

***An “Evil Heart” is a rebellious, calloused heart.***  
***A person after God’s heart is a pliable, humble, and repentant heart!***

