



A Godly Heart Vs. An Evil Heart,

Session #3, by Gerald Cumby

Summary of our Series:

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.” Albert Einstein

One of the greatest tragedies of life is knowing that there is going to be a constant battle for our souls while we walk planet earth.

Get to know Satan: This is a “MUST.”

- **We should never underestimate Satan's power nor his hatred for God and man.**
- **He cunningly broadcasts his evil, spiritual intents into our minds, subtly working to turn each member of the “little flock” away from God (Ephesians 2:2).**

The battle now is for our “hearts.”

Good soldiers go into battle to win; being positive, alert, and ready to protect himself and other brothers (Brothers in same unit/same fellowship in Christ).

What does the Bible say our heart is? Usually refers to the inner self, the character part of one’s being, and/or the inward thoughts that thinks, decides, and senses right from wrong.

The “intangible heart” (that which we don’t see with our eyes) in the Bible is a composition of all the components of our soul—our mind, emotion, and will—plus the most important part of our spirit—our conscience.

1 John 3:20-21, “But if we have a guilty conscience and feel that we have done wrong, the Lord will surely feel it even more, for he knows everything we do. But, dearly loved friends, if our consciences are clear, we can come to the Lord with perfect assurance and trust...”

As we head into the final stages of the age of man, we should keep in mind that each of us was created by God, complete with everything we need to function according to His will. While we may lack the power, wealth, talent, and beauty that another brother/sister in Christ has been gifted, we will soon be given so much more, **if, among other things, we learn to be content with what our generous and loving God has provided us.**

“Content” only enough to take us where we will seek God with all our heart and all our soul.

Remember...contentment can be laziness or it can be a challenge toward greatness for the glory of God.

- ✓ *Never (even at an elderly age) to be content as to where we are in seeking after God. The final lap of our life should be when we give it our all.*

The distance races are won by staying in the race until the very last lap...giving that final push to be a champion...only to give glory to God.

- ✓ *I want to lay any and all my achievements (rewards and crowns) I might win in the end at the feet of Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.*

*Psalm 149:4, “For the LORD takes delight in his people; he **crowns** the humble with victory.”*

*Revelation 4:10, “The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their **crowns** before the throne and say:*

Now...let’s look at the heart WITHOUT GOD in it!

When it comes to thinking about evil, the theologian A.W. Tozer puts it well. In his book, *The Attributes of God*, he says “all things as they move toward God are beautiful, and they are ugly as they move away from Him.”

Many of us tend to think that things are only evil when they hurt people.

John Piper offers a different perspective on this issue. He argues that all evil stems from finding superior satisfaction in anything but God.

- ✓ The evil in hurting others is that they are made in the image of God and you are devaluing something He created.
- ✓ Evil is a God-issue, an offense against His perfect and Holy character. It’s seeing God and all His splendor and deciding that something else is better.

- ✓ Even the first sin worked out this way. Adam and Eve knew God but chose to seek satisfaction in the fruit anyway.

Evil is any action, thought, or intention that values anything over God. When we define evil in this way, we can all agree with the biblical statement, “there is no one righteous, not even one.”

Where does this evil come from? (Texas question). *“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” -Ephesians 6:12*

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.” -James 1:13

“For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.” -Psalm 5:4

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.” -Matthew 15:19

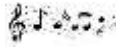

THE EVIL HEART: *Genesis 6:5, “Then the Lord saw that man was very sinful on the earth. Every plan and thought of the **heart** of man was sinful always.”*

- *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.

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.

Thank God...for your salvation! Thank God for making a way to enter into His kingdom...not Satan's Kingdom.

Now that we know God is on our side...cheering us on, let us choose good over evil.

Remember...God is sovereign over evil.

- *However, we are still rightly held responsible for our actions. The forces of evil are still warring against our souls, and there is a heavenly battle being waged that the Lord will win and has already won.*
- *God warns us in Scripture again and again to turn from evil and follow Him. He mourns the godlessness of people, and desires that they live a holy life.*
- *In Christ, we get to be a part of fighting against evil. We are not helpless in the war; we have been equipped with the armor of God.*

Romans 6:13-14 says "And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness. But as those who are alive from the dead, offer yourselves to God, and all the parts of yourselves to God as weapons for righteousness. For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace."

How exciting! We get to be weapons of righteousness in the hand of the Lord.

Some great quotes we can take away from this lesson:

- ✓ "We are living in a time when good is called evil and evil is called good. We need to be prepared for warfare."
- ✓ "The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works." Augustine

The teacher wants to know your heart!

What is on your heart today? Do you hurt physically, spiritually or emotionally?

God is ready to heal your broken heart!