

“The Difference”

(The Difference between ‘Giving your heart’ vs. ‘Withholding It’)

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A Little Review for Context:

Let’s go back to last week for a bit of review, **“My life is not my own. You were bought with a price, therefore honor God with your body.” I Cor. 6:19-20**

Luke 17:32-33 “Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to keep his life shall lose it, and whoever loses his life shall preserve it.” (NAS)

Matthew 10:37-39 “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has keeps his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life, for My sake, shall find it.”

My Testimony – When Norm & I got married he was only 2 ½ yrs. in the Lord...but

Prv. 23:7 “As a man thinks in his HEART so is he...” - the heart thinks, thoughts create when we agree with them for good or evil...remember...

“...that you may know the thoughts of your heart.” Daniel 2:30b NKJV

“Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, that the **thoughts of your heart** might be forgiven you.” Acts 8:22 NAS

Presuppositions:

According to the Bible – the heart is the centre of all operations of human life (Deut. 6:5; 26:16; Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30-33 It is the home of your personal life, hence a person is designated “according to his heart” either **wise** (I Kings 3:12; **pure** Ps. 24:4; Matt. 5:8; **upright or even wicked**...in these verses and many others like the word “soul” could not be substituted for “heart.”

The heart is also the seat of the conscience (Romans 2:15; is naturally wicked (Gen. 8:21); can contaminate the whole life and character of (Matt. 12:34; 15:18; Ecc. 8:11; Ps. 73:7) – **SO, the heart must be changed, regenerated,** (Eze. 36:26; 11:19; Ps. 51:10-14) before a man can willingly obey God when challenged.

The process of salvation begins in the HEART – by receiving by faith the testimony of God -- while the rejection of His Word hardens the heart. (Ps. 95:8; Prov. 28:14; II Chron. 36:13) “Hardness of heart evidences itself by “light views of sin:” partial acknowledgment and confession of it; pride and conceit; ungratefulness; lack of concern about the Word; shunning reproof, presumption, centering of self and the person’s life above the dreams of God for the whole...

Definition of Heart – Lebh, kardia – In the first place bodily organ and by easy transition those experiences which affect or are affected by the body – Love, fear, courage, anger, joy, sorrow, hatred are always ascribed “to the heart” (courage) Ps. 27:14; (Joy) Ps. 4:7; (Anger) Deut. 19:6; (“while his heart is hot”); fear (I Sam. 25:37); sorrow (Ps. 13:2) etc.

“Soul” in Hebrew can never be rendered by “heart” nor can “heart” be considered as a synonym for “soul.” “The Hebrew nephesh (soul) is never translated kardia “(heart)

The Heart is - The center of man(the Spirit lives in there is we’re saved- **It’s our moral, spiritual and intellectual life. The seat of our emotions, affections, thoughts and will. The Heart, also, stands for Conscience as in Job 27:6, “My heart shall not reproach me,” or in I Sam. 24:5 “David’s heart smote him” etc.**

Process of Heart Renewal – Removal of a “stony-heart” (Exe. 11:19; a cleansed heart (Ps. 51:10); a fixed heart (Ps. 112:7); always through – THROUGH “THE FEAR OF THE Lord” vs. 1) Romans 10:10 says, “that with the heart, man believes and ITS IN THE HEART THAT GOD’S SPIRIT DWELLS WITH MIGHT AND GOD’S LOVE IS POURED FORTH (Eph. 3:16; Romans 5:5; and the “Spirit of His son has been sent forth into the heart” – Gal. 4:6

*****And He is coming to us CCK today, as well as all of you listening in on streaming:
“Prov. 23:26 “My son, give Me your heart and let your eyes delight in my ways.”**

Definition of Give – nathan (Strong’s 5414) to give, apply, be healed, bring forth, commit, give forth, grant, occupy, pour, and yield

Definition of Withholding – To hold back or refrain, to keep something for self, to suppress

Q. Why would someone withhold? Not knowing Lord and His Goodness, Idols, etc.

A. Fear ruling thoughts instead of Trust in the Lord, Never settled the issue of “Lordship”, doesn’t know the Word(or took back control from Christ to self), no Christ-centered vision or lost vision where (reversion to type) produces a center is still self, unfulfilled expectations that can grow into bitterness that gets hardened, and Unbelief is let to grow back into “a withheld heart” where *Withholding grows into Hardening and hardening grows into Unbelief/Disobedience which produces:*

Eph. 4:18 “They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.” NAS

Ps. 73:7 “From their callous hearts comes iniquity and evil conceits of their minds know no limits.” NIV

But He commands: “Love the Lord with **all your heart**, soul and strength” Deut. 6:5

Apply this today to your whole life in the Lord, your thoughts, choices, placement, marriage, relationships, calling, parenting, **all decisions must be based on the Word of God...not what "You thought..." – His ways are not our ways – yet – but you CAN trust Him better than yourself.**

THIS WE KNOW TO BE TRUE: Presuppositions (Assumptions)

1. His radical unconditional love is not based on our goodness or ever deserving it demonstrated by the Cross (“...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”)
2. Matt. 6:33 is still the bottom line – “Seek First His Kingdom..and everything will be added unto you.”
3. He is Our Creator and made us for him before the world was born(Ps. 139)
4. All His ways are GOOD and RIGHT
5. His Way is the only one that works right
6. If we hang onto our lives for ourselves, we lose it – Luke 17:33;Matt. 10:37-39
7. If we lose them for Him, we gain them (what we were created for)
8. We Exist for Him
9. When WE GIVE HIM OUR WHOLE HEART – AND DELIGHT IN HIM – WE RECEIVE THE DESIRES OF OUR HEART (HIS HEART THAT HE PLACED IN US) = JOY UNSPEAKABLE AND FULL OF GLORY
10. COMPROMISE DOESN'T WORK IN HIS KINGDOM, BECAUSE HE IS LORD We aren't!
11. OBEDIENCE OPENS THE HEAVENS ON EARTH...HE COMES TO DWELL (He and His Father come to DWELL in us) Jn. 14

The Difference:

What life is like when you **“Give your heart”** to what and where He has called you **vs. keeping it(or holding onto it) for yourself.**

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR HEART HARDENS(even just a little): **Stony Heart**

1. Self quickly takes over and you set yourself back on the throne because “somebody’s got to be out for your best interests and of course, that would be ME.”
2. At best, compartmentalize your Trust and Belief in His Goodness and Way, at worst – you sell your past Truth and go back to just trusting yourself and the leaven of self always wins (a little leaven spoils a whole loaf).
3. New best friend Pride begins to displace Humility and Fear pushes out Trust
4. If not check or repented of here – Self-deception enters and allows inordinate “Fears” to come in and take over mindsets – exalts self as superior and that can usher in a “self-idolatry” which is likened to witchcraft/rebellion...and that can grow into...
5. OR YOU CAN REPENT
6. SPOT THE ENEMY RIGHT NOW IN YOUR THINKING (remember the Heart thinks) and RE-ISSUE THE PLACE OF LORDSHIP BACK TO JESUS CHRIST, selling all rights to be in charge, all rights to your own life all rights to “decide for yourself” what YOU want and see back and look at “what has been lost” --- you must be willing to SEE it so you hate it and feel the pain of the sin and how it’s hurt Him.

WHEN YOU DO GIVE HIM YOUR HEART– What happens in time
RE-ISSUE YOU'RE ELECTING HIM LORD OVER YOUR LIFE

1. **Repentance opens up seeing what the enemy didn't want you to see and deception begins to break** and repentance comes deep and goes deeper still – cry out for it!
2. John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him and WE will come to him and make our dwelling with Him.”
3. **Sensitivity to His Presence** comes back more tangible than ever
4. **Eyes open to what He's been doing here/on the earth/your possible role in it**
5. **Obedience to His Voice becomes your heart's desire and obedience opens Vision** again
6. You can't help but agree with Him and Receive His love and forgiveness
7. **Fear begins to be displaced by His Love** and your repentance opens up PEACE again
8. **Faith arises because you're loving again and with held hard is gone therefore isn't block His voice, and love**
9. You begin to “feel joy” again because **TO GIVE YOUR HEART MEANS TO SET YOUR AFFECTIONS BACK ON HIM, TRUST, AGREEING WITH HIS WORD ABOVE YOUR OWN**
10. **KEEP YOUR HEART THROUGH HUMILITY** -“Guard” your Heart means, “Keep” – you keep it right (guarding it) by Trust, and you do that by faith -“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the WORD of God,” and then it WORKS by LOVE. Love is the gauge!

WHAT TO DO?

1. Turn back to Him – run the whole way, stop your agreements with the accuser!
“When a man turns to the Lord, the VEIL is lifted.” II Cor.3:16
“You will seek me and find me, if you seek me with all your heart.”
Jer. 29:13