

The Heart is the Target

Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands

February 4, 2024

1. Video by Timothy Lane
2. Summary of video content - Ungodly behavior is symptomatic of heart sin. Whatever controls the heart will control behavior. If lasting change is to take place, it must come through a change within the heart.
 - a. There are 4 views of people and their bodies/hearts, (inner persons):
 1. The tripartite view is the view that there are 3 parts to people, their body, soul and spirit. In this way there is a separation between the three. Doctors handle issues within the body, pastors handle spiritual needs, and therapists and psychologists handle issues within the soul.
 2. The medical view communicates that we are a body only. All that happens within us is a chemical reaction.
 3. The third view is that we are souls only. This is Gnosticism. Simply put; everything physical is bad while everything relating to the spirit is good.
 4. The fourth view is what we discover biblically. We are 2 parts. First, we have our inner person which is the mind, heart, soul, and spirit. Secondly, we have an outer person, which is our body and flesh.
 - b. We are embodied souls which are influenced significantly by what has happened to us and what will happen to us. If we respond sinfully to being sinned against then whatever is driving our inward response is stronger than our outward influences.
 - c. Some scriptures to consider when thinking about the issues of the heart: James 1:14, Luke 6:43-45, Ezekiel 14:1-5, Romans 1: 25, Matthew 6:19-24, Hebrews 4:12-13 and also 14-16, Proverbs 20:5.
 - d. We must remember that we aren't God. We are an instrument in His hands.
3. Discussion questions
4. "Do"

Elements of Personal Ministry

Love, Know, Speak, **Do**

Be holy for I am holy. Leviticus 11:44a

Change always demands a deeper understanding of the things of God and a more careful application of those truths to our lives. Since change is a lifelong process, it won't be over until we are in the presence of the Lord. So, as we encourage people to change, dealing with the needs of the moment is not our highest priority; rather, it is answering God's call to "Be holy, because I am holy: (Lev. 11:44). As we call people to do what God has called them to do, we must keep this ultimate destination in view.¹

- A. **Establish a personal ministry agenda.** This provides a sense of direction. Three agenda setting questions to ask are:
 - 1. What does the Bible say about the information that has been gathered? Avoid bringing our biases or pride to this. Truly dig deep into God's word and don't assume an answer is immediately known. See pages 248-249 in Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands for an example.
 - 2. What are God's goals for change for this person in this situation? This specifically looks at God's call to "put on and put off" found in Ephesians 4:22-24. Page 250 gives us an example.
 - 3. What are some biblical methods for accomplishing God's goals of change? See page 251 for an example.
- B. **Clarify responsibility.** Ask the question; Who is responsible for what? Generally, there are 3 ways of viewing responsibility. There are the irresponsible, overly responsible, and the genuinely confused. See page 250 for a helpful diagram as you clarify responsibility.
- C. **Instill identity in Christ.** In my life and as I've worked with others, this is often key in bringing about changed thinking. Consider Keith Ferrin's resource or others that the church offers to expand on these truths.
- D. **Provide Accountability.** As we discussed last week, we are called in Hebrews 3:13 to "Encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today" so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." Accountability provides loving structure, guidance, encouragement, and warning to someone who is fully committed to the change God is working in their life. The person who makes accountability work is always the person being held accountable. See pages 268-276 for further discussion.

¹ Tripp, Paul David. Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, People in Need of Change Helping People in Need of Change. (Page 239) P&R Publishing