

# Introduction

## 1. Opening Story

(1) Chuck's Harley

(2) Our motto:

99 Problems, But My Heart  
Ain't One

## 2. The War Within

(1) What we desire is what  
we want to desire

All people desire what they believe will make them happy. If a person is not full of desire for God, we can only conclude that he is engaged with another happiness.

William Law

Desire for God without doctrine is blind; doctrine without desire is empty.

Kevin Vanhoozer

# I. Good desires don't reject ambition (v1-v4)

## 1. It is a good thing to desire good things — (v11-14) Not a dating text —

**Psalm 37:4** - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

(1) God wants you desire, but to desire rightly

(2) The Christian message gets distorted as stop desiring

**Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "

(3) yes the heart is deceitful, but you have a new heart

**Ezekiel 11:19** - And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh..

**Titus 3:5** - he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of **regeneration** and renewal of the Holy Spirit;

(4) So then, what's the problem?  
Or James asks it this way...

**James 4:1a** - What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?

1. He answers it in the text that follows...

**James 4:1b-2** - Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **You do not have, because you do not ask.** old heart orientated to self

2. Your desires are disordered from your old heart. (self 1st vs God 1st)

**Ephesians 2:1-3** - And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom **we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind,** and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

3. A regenerated heart (past tense) means your desires are regenerating. (present)

4. You have to distinguish between your old vile desires of your old heart & your new ones

2. It is a good thing to pursue good desires (v 1-14)

(1) Ambition is not a sin

**1 Timothy 3:1** - The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, **he desires** a noble task.

1. Ambition is desire in motion

(2) Selfish ambition is different

**James 3:16** - For where jealousy and **selfish ambition** exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

1. Borned in discontent (jealous)

2. Evidenced in practice (vile)

**Philippians 2:3** - Do nothing from **selfish ambition** or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

3. Orientated towards self

- So nothing for myself?
- To the neglect of others

(3) Reverse engineer desires

1. We want to distinguish old desires of our old heart

So don't reject ambition outright as evidence of disordered desires.

## II. Good desires don't reflect wisdom (v15-30:16)

### 1. Bad process is a good test for wisdom (v15-24)

4 people  
w/ competing  
desires

#### (1) False platitudes (v15-16)

1. Wisdom speaks the truth even if it means losing what we want
2. The desire itself doesn't necessarily expose disordered, our process in manifesting it does

3. Are we willing to employ wisdom?

4. What & how we speak exposes

**Luke 6:45** - The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

5. Wisdom doesn't work people

(Children are good at this)

6. Who have you been trying to work?

#### (2) False pretenses (v23-24)

1. Laban & Leah conspire.  
Laban just wants to give his daughter what she desires  
(warning to parents)

2. Rush into a relationship to get what we want...



2. Long patience is a quick test for wisdom (v 25-30:16)

(1) Pay attention to the details (29:25-30)

1. You're so focused on what you want, what details are you ignoring or neglecting?
2. Job - cost of living; move - lack of community; relationship - lack of common convictions.

(2) Pay attention to the shortcuts

1. We neglect wisdom when good things become good things (v 21:32, 30:1, 13)
2. We shortcut the practice of our faith (v 30:3, 9)
3. We shortcut the object of our faith (v 30:14-16)

(3) Pay attention to the villainizing (30:2, 8, 15)

1. Idolize = villainize

Look at the mess disordered desires  
Are you rushing? cause!

### III. Good desires don't forget Jesus (v17-24)

#### 1. To fulfill is not to pay (v18)

- (1) Your works do not indent God to your desires (genie)
- (2) Someone else getting what they seemingly desire (jealousy) is not evidence of God's blessing.

(3) Grace = didn't deserve

**1 Corinthians 15:10** - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

#### 2. To withhold is not to punish (v23)

- (1) You are not being punished, or God is absent; because life is n't what you want right now

**Psalms 103:10** - He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

- (2) On the other side of the Cross, His orientation is no longer punitive, but formative

#### 3. Everything is grace (v29:35; 30:22, 24)

- (1) Leah & Rachel start to get it

# Conclusion

## 1. Restore order to your desires

**Psalm 37:4** - Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

### (1) Notice the order of operation

**Jeremiah 17:9-10** - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

## 2. Why isn't Jesus enough today? (v 29:35)

### (1) Worship is about desire

**2 Corinthians 4:6** - For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

### (2) He is healing our desires

**Psalm 42:5-8**

Why are you cast down, O my soul,

and why are you in turmoil within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my salvation [6] and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;

therefore I remember you  
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,  
from Mount Mizar.

[7] Deep calls to deep

at the roar of your waterfalls;  
all your breakers and your waves  
have gone over me.

[8] By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,  
and at night his song is with me,  
a prayer to the God of my life.

- Hope horizontal or vertical?

- Have you forgotten what God has done for you?

- Your deep desires cannot be fulfilled by shallow thing, desire deeper

- Result praise