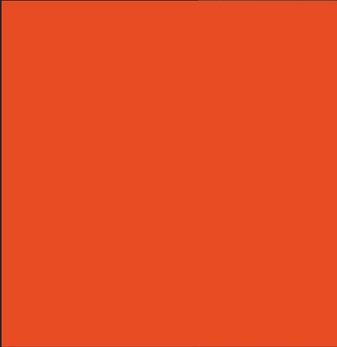


# Wrestling with Motives



[www.marshallcc.com/Thursdays](http://www.marshallcc.com/Thursdays)

# Motive

Something that causes a person to act in a certain way. An incentive. The goal or object or goal of a person's actions.

# Motive

Something that causes a person to act in a certain way. An incentive. The goal or object of a person's actions.

**We do what we do because  
we want what we want**

# Common Motives



- Pleasure
- Power
- Love/Intimacy
- Comfort
- Meaning
- Control/Security
- Freedom/Autonomy
- Peace
- Happiness
- Significance/Reputation
- Respect/Admiration
- Success



How can someone know that they are being driven by one of these (or other) desires?

Which of these common motives can you recognize in your life?

# Unbiblical Motives



A man who is always late and unavailable when there is work to be done might be motivated by comfort.

# Unbiblical Motives



A wife who is mortified that a surprise visitor saw her messy house may be motivated by reputation.

# Unbiblical Motives



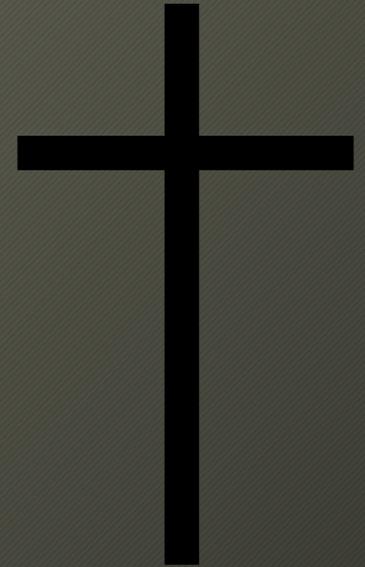
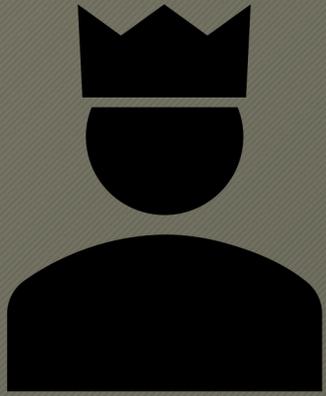
A teen who chafes at any curfew may be motivated by autonomy or freedom.

# Unbiblical Motives

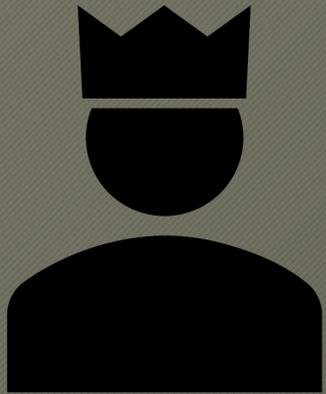


A mother who never lets her children stay with a babysitter may be motivated by control or security.

# Idols of the Heart



# Idols of the Heart

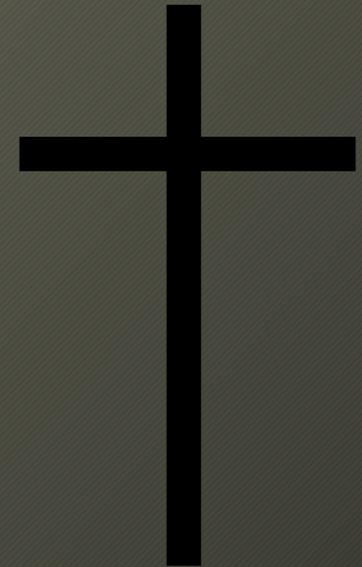


Pleasing  
God is my  
Highest  
Aim

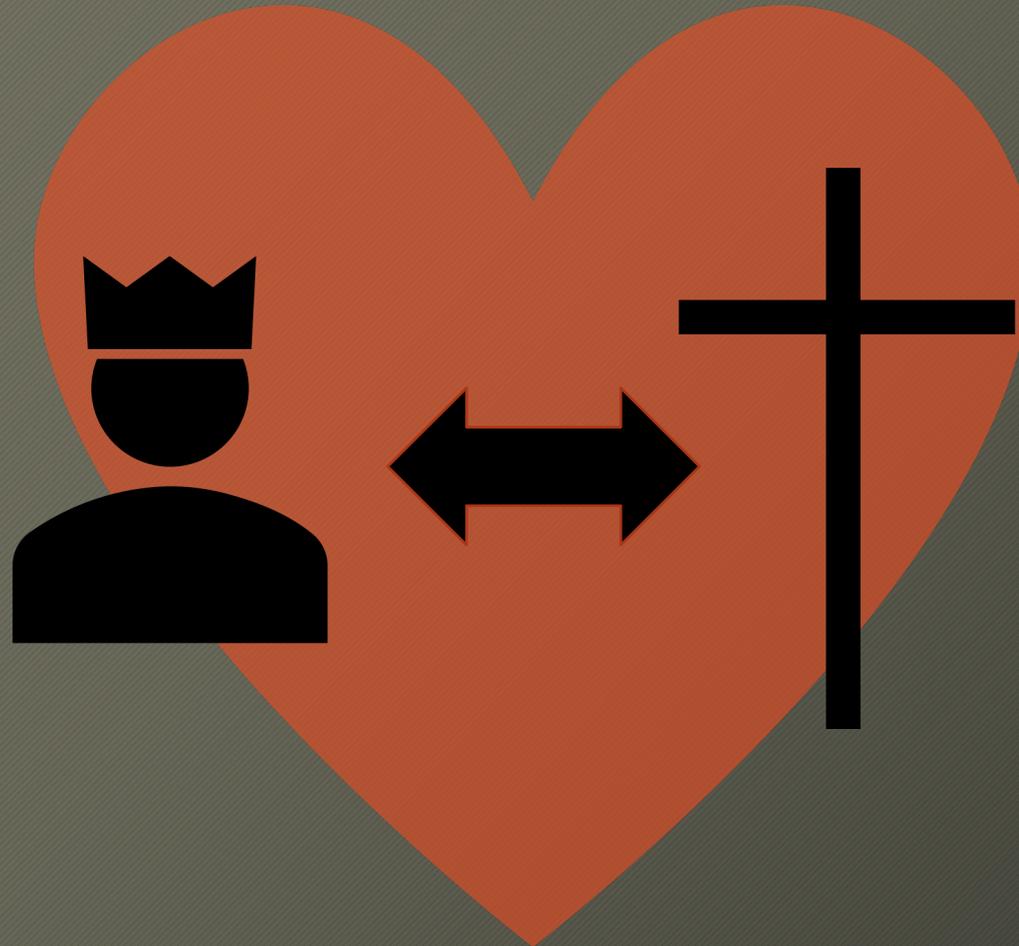
# Idols of the Heart



Pleasing  
Self is my  
Highest  
Aim



# Wrestling with Motives



# Luke 6:43-45

“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit...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.



# James 4:1-3

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that **your passions** are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> **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. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.



“ ”

We speak and act the way we do because of what is in our hearts. There may be no more important thing to say about how people function, yet this seems to be hard for us to accept. In many ways we deny this connection and blame people and circumstances for our actions and words.

“ ”

Here, [James 4:1-10] Christ calls us to humbly admit that relationships and circumstances are only the occasions in which our hearts reveal themselves.

Paul David Tripp  
*Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

# 5 Key Statements - Paul Tripp



- Our hearts are always being ruled by someone or something.
- The most important question to ask when examining the heart is “what is functionally ruling my heart in this situation?”
- Whatever controls my heart will control my responses to people and situations

# 5 Key Statements - Paul Tripp



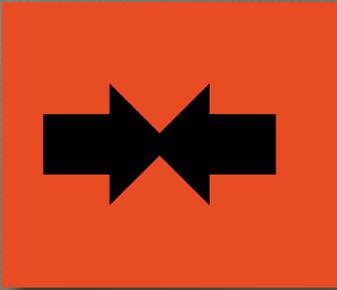
- God changes us not just by teaching us to do different things, but by recapturing our hearts to serve him alone
- The deepest issues of the human struggle are not issues of pain and suffering, but the issue of worship, because what rules our hearts will control the way we respond to both suffering and blessing.

# Recognize



Ask God to Reveal  
Question Intense Emotions  
Examine Your Thoughts





**Fruit:  
Words,  
Actions,  
Emotions**



**Thoughts**

**Motives/Desires/Passions**

People are indeed complex. Beneath the surface of life is a heart that is always on the move, looking for objects in which to trust (Luke 24:25; Rom. 10:10). The heart has purposes (Prov. 20:5; Dan. 1:18), inclinations (Eccl. 10:2), intents (Heb. 4:12), imaginations and schemes (Prov. 6:18), desires (Ps. 10:3, James 4:1), and cravings and lusts (1 John 2:16, Eph. 4:19).

“ ”

“ ”

It is not surprising that, with such complexity, our hearts are not always immediately understandable to others, or even to ourselves (Matt. 15:8; 1 Cor. 4:5; Prov. 16:2; Jer. 17:9). Like the bottom of a well or the roots of trees, our hearts tend to be hidden, and we can never fully know their depths.

-- Paul Tripp

# Recognize



Ask God to Reveal

Question Intense Emotions

Examine Your Thoughts

Evaluate Response to Disappointments

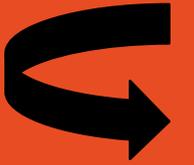
# Repent



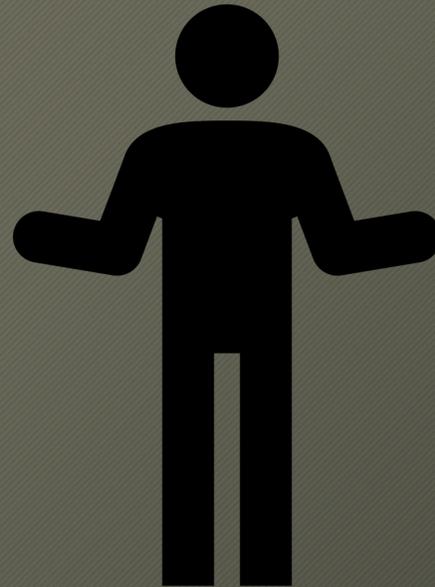
Pleasing  
Self is my  
Highest  
Aim



# Repent



## Confess



## Stop

## Agree with God

# Repent



Pleasing  
God is my  
Highest  
Aim

# Replace with Biblical Motives



If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Colossians 3:1-4

# Biblical Motives



## Bankruptcy

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” Jn 6:66-69

# Biblical Motives



## Fear of the Lord

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! - Lk 12:4-5

## 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.



# Biblical Motives



## Love and Gratitude

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-35

# Luke 7:47

Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”



# Biblical Motives



## Purpose and Hope

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. Heb 11:8-10

## 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.





Which of these Biblical Motives is most compelling to you? Why?

Is there one that you rarely consider?  
What would be the impact on you if you were to consider it more often?

Next  
Theology Thursday  
January 20, 2022

Wrestling  
with  
Devotion  
Falling in  
Love with  
God

Tom Gray