



Heart Condition

Worksheet Follows Message/Lesson

1 Peter 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Introduction:

God explains that He has an entirely different value system than our culture has. Television, movies, advertisements, even the clothes and jewelry that are available for purchase at the stores, all of these things reflect the value system of our culture.

Whether you live in the West where a good pair of boots is your Sunday dress shoes or on the beach covered coasts where you sandals might be your best Sunday shoes, whatever you wear is largely determined by the culture in your region and by what is available on the shelves and in the stores where you live.

We often decide what is “in” by the dictates of others, more than by what is practical or useful or needful.

No matter how you dress up, God isn’t concerned with your ornaments on the outside other than He expects us to be modestly clad, which He does. ***1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel...***

God explains that He does not value our natural beauty and He is not impressed by how fancy our clothes or how strong of an athlete we are. He sees us totally differently. God looks at us from the inside out.

You can put on a big belt buckle, cowboy hat, spurs strapped onto your boots, and carry a rope, but that does not make you a cowboy. And you are mostly just impressing yourself in the mirror.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

So the question is: When God looks at you does He see a clean heart or a dirty one? What condition is your heart in?

Message:

The Unclean Heart Condition:

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

Stephen had just preached about Jesus when this verse took place. But these people had made up their minds and hated Jesus. These people were the Pharisees, the very people that had killed Jesus. Their hearts were worthless to God in their current condition because they were so consumed with hate, that they attacked Stephen and began to bite him as if they were dogs.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...

Anytime that you stand for Jesus and His righteousness then there will be some people that hate you. They have an unclean heart condition. They will not all be recognizable, but rather are often wolves in sheep's clothing in fact they may be a "Pharisee" appearing to be a Christian. In fact, the Pharisee rarely knows he is a Pharisee.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Yes, there are unclean heart conditions all around you. Examine your own heart. Make sure yours is "right with God" that is "lined up with Jesus" not just in words, but in your heart.

The Clean Heart:

1 Peter 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

How do you have a clean heart?

"...a meek and quiet spirit..." The Bible says your spirit, not your outward phonyness, is of great price. When you are genuinely thoughtful and considerate as a result of a clean heart, then you will be in a condition and position to be mightily blessed of God. This is a wonderful situation because it spills over and you are able to be a blessing to others as a result.

Too many people have a phony smile and a phony kindness. You cannot *work up* a genuine meek and quiet spirit. Sooner or later, the "conditional" smiles and kindness will disappear. If you are to please God, you need the genuine Spirit of God and you only get that if you are born-again. There are lots of nice and helpful people in the world, but that does not make them born-again. Only accepting Jesus will get you the spirit that pleases God.

Many are trying to work their way to Heaven by being kind, helpful, doing civic duties that are all needful and appreciated by society. These deeds are important in our culture. However, these do not earn brownie points with God. But if these things are done as a result of a clean heart, then you have something of value. But just doing good deeds will not give you a clean heart in the sight of God anymore than fancy clothes.

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

The only way to increase the value of your heart is by making sure that you love the Lord more than anything else. Sounds easy, but remember your eyes will keep distracting your heart away from the Lord and His will!

Always keep in mind these verses:

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Remember that when we are tried with the Sword of the Lord, then we will have no fear if you are a saved/born-again believer.

The Remedy:

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

The heart is the only part of our anatomy that can get us to Heaven. God says we must believe in our hearts.

Today the word "believe" has a different meaning to some people than it did when this scripture was translated from the original language.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble.

Just because you believe that God exists does not make you a "believer" or a born-again person. James makes that clear.

The word "believe" in Romans is referring to a "trusting" in Jesus for your salvation; for Him to take away your sins and give you His righteousness so that you can enter into His presence someday.

The remedy for an unclean heart is straight-forward. It must be cleansed by the Blood of Jesus.

1 John 1:7b.....the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Present Salvation.

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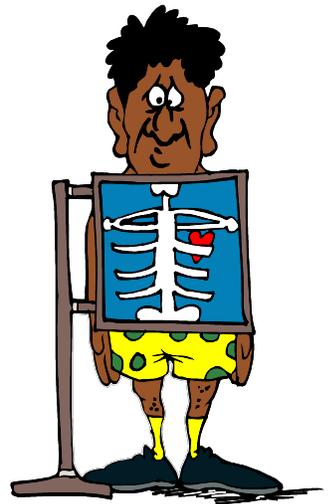
Heart Condition: Diagnosis & Remedy

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Diagnosis:

Did you know you may be sick with a **SPIRITUAL HEART CONDITION** and not even know it?

What are some symptoms of a “spiritual heart condition” that needs a remedy?



The Remedy:

Romans 10:10

For with the _____ man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.