

Doctrine of the Heart

New Testament Teaching

1. When used in *Scripture*, the heart refers to the essence of man in his innermost being. The heart is to be kept pure from defilement in order to be happy and to maintain the hope of knowing God.
 - *Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
2. The sin of the heart is just as serious in the sight of God as overt sin.
 - *Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*
3. The true status of the heart is reflected in part by the place that finances are found. What a person invests in financially reveals the heart.
 - *Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*
4. One of the characteristics of the heart of Christ was meekness and humility. The Christian is invited to take this same spirit upon himself.
 - *Matthew 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
5. If a person is listened to long enough they will reveal what is upon their heart, whether it is good or bad.
 - *Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*
 - *Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*
6. It is possible for the heart to become “gross” in spiritual matters which literally means “to thicken” and refers figuratively to the heart becoming callous.
 - *Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

7. It is possible for Satan to come and snatch away the *Word of God* sown in the heart.
 - *Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.*
8. It is possible for a person to honor God with the lips while the heart is not in fellowship with Him.
 - *Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.*
9. Because the heart refers to the essence of the soul, what proceeds from the heart can defile the person.
 - *Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.*
10. By nature and by choice the heart of the natural man produces every form of evil.
 - *Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:*
11. Despite the natural pollution of the heart individuals are still responsible to love God.
 - *Matthew 22:37 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.*
12. Secret conversations, for good or bad, take place in the heart
 - *Matthew 24:48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;*
13. The heart of the Christian is not immune from being hardened and subject to unbelief.
 - *Mark 6:52 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.*
14. Jesus characterized the religious heart as a hypocritical heart.
 - *Mark 7:6 He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

15. When the heart is not sensitive to spiritual matters there are social consequences as other lives are touched. One example is divorce.

- *Mark 10:5 And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he [Moses] wrote you this precept [concerning divorce].*

16. Faith must subdue doubt in the heart in order to achieve great works.

- *Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*

17. Jesus will always rebuke unbelief and a hardening of the heart of His disciples.

- *Mark 16:14 Afterward [i.e., His resurrection] he [Jesus] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.*
- *Luke 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:*

18. Meditation is to be part of the Christian experience.

- *Luke 2:19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.*

19. Not every spiritual experience is to be openly spoken about. Some spiritual matters are to be kept for private consideration.

- *Luke 2:51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.*

20. An honest and good heart will keep the Word of God and bring forth-spiritual fruit.

- *Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.*

21. Because He is very God of very God Jesus always knows what is in the heart of a person.

- *Luke 9:47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a child, and set him by him,*

22. The teaching of the *Scriptures* can warmly influence the heart.

- *Luke 24:32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?*

22. One form of divine judicial judgment is to allow the hardening of the heart to take place.

- *John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.*

23. While rare, it is possible for Satan to enter into the heart of a person and totally possess that individual.

- *John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;*

24. The Lord Jesus Christ does not want the heart of the believer to worry.

- *John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*
- *John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

25. Word of the impending loss of a loved one depresses the heart and fills it with sorrow.

- *John 16:6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart.*

26. As the heart can know moments of deep depression it can know moments of extreme happiness.

- *John 16:22 And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.*
- *Acts 2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:*

27. The message of the gospel is designed to “prick” [agitate violently] the heart of the unbelieving community.

- *Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

28. The violent agitation of the heart of the unbeliever by the preaching of the gospel can lead to murder.

- *Acts 5:33 When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.*

29. When the hearts of believers are united and focused in fellowship there can be happiness.

- *Acts 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*
- *Acts 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*

30. When the thoughts of Satan fill the heart the temptation comes to lie to the Holy Spirit.

- *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it [the money] remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

31. God can guide the natural thoughts of the heart to accomplish His will.

- *Acts 7:23 And when he [Moses] was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.*

32. The uncircumcised in heart is the heart that is untouched by the Sword of the Spirit and therefore is capable of resisting the Holy Spirit. In righteous anger Stephen called the people of his “*stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears*” and was rewarded with death.

- *Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*
- *Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

33. Those who preach the gospel are called upon to discern and expose the heart of the unrighteous.

- *Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.*
- *Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.*

34. If a person believes in Christ sincerely and with all the heart, they have a right to gospel baptism.

- *Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

35. Barnabas was sent from the Church in Jerusalem to exhort God’s people to “cleave unto the Lord” despite persecution.

- *Acts 11:23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.*

36. Perhaps the highest accolade ever given to David is that in the end he was a man after God's own heart.

- *Acts 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.*

37. In order to receive the gospel, God must open the heart to the truth.

- *Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

38. Pastoral Christian sorrow comes in part when God's people—in the name of love—tries to prohibit the minister from doing what the Lord has put upon the heart to do.

- *Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*

39. The heart of the natural man is declared to be foolish in the sight of God and dark with depravity.

- *Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

40. In the impenitent heart the unbeliever stores up the wrath of God against himself.

- *Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

41. When the issue of who is a "Jew" is debated, the Biblical commentary is that a true "Jew" is one who is converted to Christ.

- *Romans 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*