

Guarding Our Hearts

1. What's the point?
2. What does it involve?
3. What do I need to change?

I. What's the point?

A. My heart is the source

1. Proverbs 4:23 - Everything stems from my heart
2. Mark 7:20-23 - Specifically, what defiles me comes from my heart
3. Luke 6:45 - Treasure ⇒ Eyes → Heart → Action
4. If something ungodly comes out of my heart, the wrong question to ask is, "How did that get out?"
5. Example: Jeremy Dehut's water bottle
6. The right question to ask is, "Why was it there, in the first place?"

B. God cares about my heart and the actions that come from it

1. Jeremiah 17:10 - The source and the results are important to God!
2. Chart: God tests/searches the heart and judges the actions that come from it

* *Simon, an example of a heart that was not right before God*

Acts 8:9-24 - Peter responds to Simon's words, but rebukes Simon for his thoughts! Peter tells Simon to repent (no longer selfishly seek power and praise of man) and seek forgiveness for the intention of his heart.

II. What does it involve?

- A. Listen to the Lord's correction through the words of others who speak the truth
- B. Repent and seek forgiveness from God
- C. [After putting off] put on and make no provision for the flesh to sin (Romans 13:14)
- D. Flee! (1 Corinthians 10:12-14)
- E. Take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- F. Why would I ever, then, invite evil thoughts into my heart?
- G. If Paul instructed the Philippians to think about specific kinds of things, then I should expect guarding my heart and filling it with the right kinds of thoughts to require some effort! (Philippians 4:8)

III. What do I need to change?

- A. Holy thoughts → Holy Heart → Holy Behavior (1 Peter 1:14-16)
- B. Does what I focus on encourage me to think holy thoughts?
 1. Movies/television
 2. Video Games
 3. Books
 4. Websites
 5. Memes/Vines/YouTube Videos
 6. Conversations with friends/classmates/coworkers
 7. Talk Radio
 8. Music
 9. And things like these!