

THANK YOU
FOR JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AREAS TO SERVE

Help us make Sundays the best they can be!

have our new "Opportunities to Serve" wall where you can see our immediate needs! Check it out, and help by giving of your time!

Odd-Job Call List

We also are in need of a team of people to be "on call" for some grunt work around Element. It could be stacking/resetting chairs, cleaning up after an event, painting, or helping move some bark around the property (plus other things).

We are working on compiling a list to call/email as projects come up. If you would like to be on that list, let us know... it doesn't mean you have to say, "yes" every time.

Sign up at the Welcome Center
or through this QR Code:



JOIN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Stay up to date in your inbox!

Sign up at ourelement.org or email
connect@ourelement.org and say, "Join mailing list"



THE HEART

Today's Verses:

Matthew 22:37
Romans 12:2
Proverbs 27:19
Proverbs 4:23
Matthew 12:34b
Proverbs 20:5
Romans 12:3
Proverbs 21:3

Proverbs 20:9
Jeremiah 17:9
Matthew 15:8
Matthew 5:28
Matthew 6:21
Mark 7:21-23
Proverbs 20:9
Ezekiel 11:19

Ezekiel 36:26
Jeremiah 24:7
James 1:22
Matthew 13:15
Deuteronomy 30:6
Romans 2:28-29
Psalm 37:4



ELEMENT
christian church

www.ourelement.org/proverbs

THE HEART

We are doing a series that takes us through the summer on the book of Proverbs. Proverbs speaks of life lived with the wisdom of God at the center of everything; it speaks of goodness and grace in the midst of a culture that doesn't understand them. There are lots of things to learn in Proverbs, but Proverbs isn't a book of knowledge, it is a book of Wisdom. Knowledge gives us lots of information about stuff, but wisdom is how we live out that knowledge in practical ways that honors others, and most importantly honors God. Knowledge must lead to wisdom or we are not living how God calls us to live.

Today we cover the issue of our hearts because our hearts lead us into trouble. If we fail to understand our hearts we will continue follow them and not produce a God honoring culture. The word for heart and its derivatives are used over 900 different times in the Bible. Our hearts shape us and consequently we shape culture then culture completes the circle by shaping our hearts. We have to take responsibility because we are the ones who are helping create the culture in which we live.

In Proverbs the heart is the seat of understanding (2:2), learning (2:10), memory (3:1-3), faith (3:5), obedience (4:4, 10:8), rebellion (5:12), planning (6:14,16:1), imagination (6:18), lust (6:25), will (7:25), perversity (11:20:17:20), deceit (12:20, 26:24), folly (12:23), anxiety (12:25), hope (13:12), joy (13:25, 15:30), hurt (14:10), grief (14:13), peace (14:30), wisdom (14:33, 23:15), happiness (15:13), discernment (15:14, 16:21, 18:15), cheerfulness (15:15, 17:22), contemplation (15:28), pride (16:5, 18:12, 21:4), speech (16:23), rage (19:3), motives (21:2), purity (22:11), folly (22:15), friendship (23:7), gladness (23:15), envy (23:17), violence (24:2), reasoning (24:32), sadness (25:20), evil (26:23), sins (26:25), joy (27:9), and hardness toward God (28:14)...

The scriptures teach that we are transformed by Jesus. One of the ways that happens is the renewal of our hearts and minds. The Bible (and Proverbs) says the root problem is our hearts. Proverbs will draw a line between the CONDITION of the human heart, to the LIVING of human life, to the FORMING of human culture. The heart is a poetic way of saying who we are; it is our essence, our nature. We are not just mind, body or spirit; we are our hearts.

What we must do as a people is open our hearts to Jesus. When we open our hearts, the Holy Spirit comes in gives a new heart that is continually cleansed of its calloused condition. We begin to live a life of joy as our heart beats in rhythm with the heart of God who has created us for life and joy in Him.

Introduction

Our hearts are hard, yet Jesus breaks through and removes the callouses and restores us to a place where we can feel the Spirit's leading. God gives us a new heart for the purpose of us being able to love Him, delight in Him, and walk in true wisdom and knowledge.

Discussion

Has your heart ever lead you astray? How?

Explanation

What does it mean to "guard your heart?"

Do you guard your heart? How?

Application – Read Mark 7:21-23

How do our hearts usually end up in love with what we most value?

What do you value right now that is leading your heart to love the wrong thing?

How does what you value reflect who you are?

Have you ever honored God with your lips, but your heart was far from Him?

How can others near you help you when that happens?

Mission

How can understanding people's hearts give us empathy for their condition?

Who in your life right now is letting their hearts run their life?

How can you step in and speak some truth and lead them to some stability?

Can you see yourself in the same condition as your friend?

Homework: Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-19

In what areas do you think you are wiser than other people?

Discussion Key

Red – Easy level, not much intimacy, Blue – Intended to dig a bit deeper
Black – Designed to create deeper conversation