



1) We All Sin So...

- Adam & Eve (Gen. 2-3)
- Cain (Gen. 4)
- The Flood (Gen. 6-8)

A. What is The Big Deal?

- 1) God hates it and He punishes sin
- 2) God asks us to “master it” (4:7)



1 Peter 5:8

Be of sober *spirit*, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

(NASB)



Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

(NASB)



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A. What is The Big Deal?

- 1) God hates it and He punishes sin
- 2) God asks us to “master it” (4:7)
- 3) God desires a transformed heart (Ezra 7:10, Rom. 12:2)



Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had set (prepared) his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice *it*, and to teach *His* statutes and ordinances in Israel.

(NASB)



2) Why Such A Focus On This?

A. Because:

- 1) Our hearts can fail us (Jer. 17:9)



Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?

(NASB)



2) Why Such A Focus On This?

A. Because:

- 1) Our hearts can fail us (Jer. 17:9)
- 2) Our ways can lead us astray (Jer. 10:23)



Jeremiah 10:23

I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not
in himself, Nor is it in a man who
walks to direct his steps.

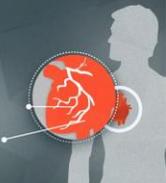
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2) Why Such A Focus On This?

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- 1) Our hearts can fail us (Jer. 17:9)
- 2) Our ways can lead us astray (Jer. 10:23)
- 3) Our thoughts can deceive us (Isaiah 55:8-9)



Isaiah 55:8-9

For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," declares
the LORD.

⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than
the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.



2) Why Such A Focus On This?

A. Because:

- 1) Our hearts can fail us (Jer. 17:9)
- 2) Our ways can lead us astray (Jer. 10:23)
- 3) Our thoughts can deceive us (Isaiah 55:8-9)
- 4) Our thoughts can lead to death (Prov. 14:12)



Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

(NASB)



Luke 8:4-8



3) Signs Of An Unprepared Heart

A. Attending Worship Out of Expectation

“And the Lord said:

“Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,”

Isaiah 29:13 (ESV)



3) Signs Of An Unprepared Heart

B. Caring About What Is Popular Over What is Right Before God

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.” Luke 6:26 (NASB)

(to the church at Sardis)

“...I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.” Revelation 3:1 (NASB)



3) Signs Of An Unprepared Heart

C. Remaining a Christian Solely to Escape the Penalty of Sin Instead of Genuinely Hating Sin

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? ² May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?”

Romans 6:1-2 (NASB)



3) Signs Of An Unprepared Heart

D. Rarely Sharing Your Faith with Others
Out of Fear of Rejection

“Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.³³ But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 10:32-33 (NASB)



3) Signs Of An Unprepared Heart

E. Refusing to Give Your Whole Life and Whole Heart to God

“...Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father... I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at home. ⁶² But Jesus said to him, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.””

Luke 9:57-62 (NASB)

