

Can't I Just Follow My Heart?

Reality Check, Pt. 6

Romans 3:21-26; Jeremiah 17:9-10; 23:26; 31:33, Proverbs 3:5-6

October 13, 2024

Jeremiah 17:9, The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? **10** "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."

Why Is My Heart So Deceitful? SIN

Romans 3:23, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:10, As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; **11** there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. **12** All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

How Can I Overcome My Sinful Heart? SALVATION

Romans 3:22, This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Why Do I Still Struggle with Sin? MY SIN NATURE

Romans 7:15, I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **16** And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. **17** As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

How Can I Win Over My Sinful Heart? STRATEGY

Psalm 86:11, Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. **12** I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Psalm 51:10, Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

A Biblical Strategy for Developing a Pure Heart:

1. Guard Your HEART

Proverbs 4:23, Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

2. Change Your FOCUS

Colossians 3:1, Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

3. Follow Jesus' EXAMPLE

Hebrews 12:2, *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

4. Listen to God's SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16, *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

5. Prioritize Corporate WORSHIP

Hebrews 10:24, *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

6. Read and Memorize GOD'S WORD

Psalms 119:9, *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. **10** I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **11** I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*