

What Did You Expect?

Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

Heart Language

- I am sorry you became mad at what I said.
- Please forgive me for saying hurtful words to you.
- He only gets like that when he is drinking.
- When he drinks, we see what he is really like.
- It makes me mad that it's raining again because my plans are spoiled.
- It's raining again and now I cannot do what I wanted to do. I wonder what God has planned for me instead?
- You make me irritated/frustrated/angry when you do/say that.
- When you do/say that, I am not getting what I want. How does God want me to die to self and to love you?

Quotable from Tripp

When we are convinced problems arise from outside of us, we stop seeking God's help for ourselves; we focus on blaming others which fuels more conflict. The result is there will be no change, healing, or reconciliation.

How Do People Change?

"that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and **that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."

Ephesians 4:22-24

How Do People Change?

Ephesians 1:13-19 (NASB95)

13 In Him, you also, **after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

15 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,

16 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers;

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.**

18 I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

How Do People Change?

- The word translated “spirit” in Eph. 4:23 is the Greek πνεῦμα (*pneuma* /**pn̩yoo**·mah). The range of meanings in context include:*)
 - The spirit, i.e. the vital principal by which the body is animated.
 - The rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides.
 - The soul.
 - A spirit, i.e. a simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting.
 - The disposition or influence which fills and governs the soul of any one.
 - The efficient source of any power, affection, emotion, desire, etc.

*)Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) (G4151). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

How Do People Change?

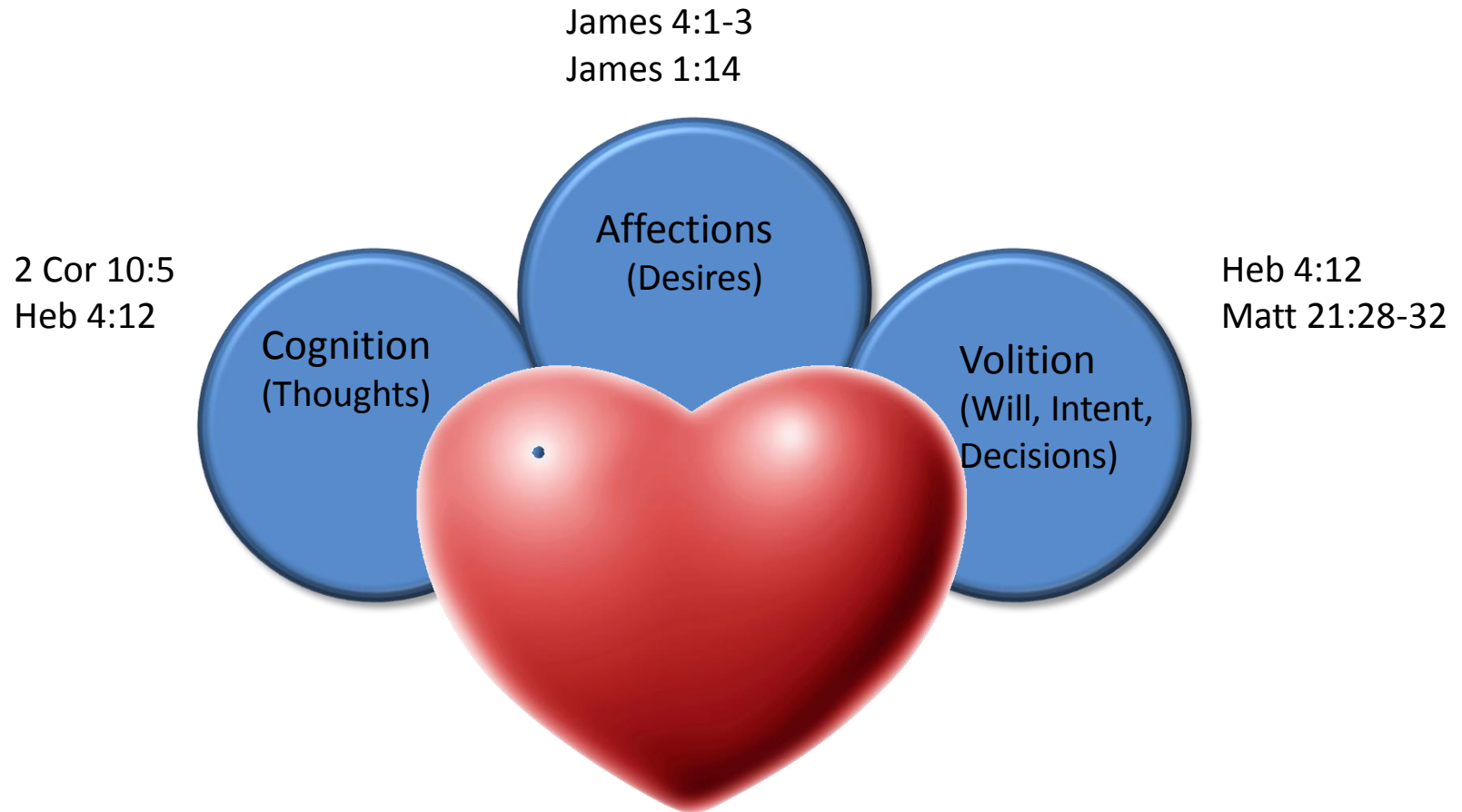
- The word translated “heart” in Eph. 1:18 is the Greek **καρδία** [*kardia* /kar·dee·ah/]. The range of meanings in context include:•
 - The center and seat of spiritual life.
 - The soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors.
 - Center of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence.
 - Center of the will and character.
 - Center of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions.

*Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the text of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.) (G2588). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Real, lasting, biblical change occurs in the inner person. To describe the inner person, the primary word the Bible uses is the HEART; additional related words include spirit, soul, mind, pleasures, desires, treasure, knowledge.

Biblical Heart “Surgery”

Three Aspects of the Heart



How Do People Change?

Colossians 3:8-16 (NASB95)

- 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.
- 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices,
- 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—**
- 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.
- 12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;**
- 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
- 14 Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
- 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.**
- 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

The inner change we are talking about is closely connected with the Gospel, and Bible meditation, singing, and worship all seem to be instruments involved in biblical change.

How Do People Change?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB95)

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

A Christian CAN change because of the Gospel!

How Do People Change?

Psalms 1:1-3 (NASB95)

1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,

Nor stand in the path of sinners,

Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,

Which yields its fruit in its season

And its leaf does not wither;

And in whatever he does, he prospers.

The Word is a primary tool the Spirit uses to change us. He also uses our circumstances, prayers, other people, worship, singing, and the sacraments.

How Do People Change?

Philippians 2:12-13 (NASB95)

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your salvation with fear and trembling;**

13 **for it is God who is at work in you,** both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

God is the one who changes us, but we have responsibilities in the process of change

Personal Improvement Project

1. Pick a particularly persistent problem in a relationship that you want to work on
2. Enlist an accountability partner; ask for their support and prayer
3. Journal the problem (past and present); be very specific about the sin that occurs and about the underlying heart attitude
4. Confess and repent of the sin before God and to the person you sinned against
5. Meditate on applicable Scriptures and persistently pray that God will change your heart

Temptation Journal

Outer Man:

1. What circumstances led me to my temptation? (What happened that tempted me?):
2. What did I say/do when I was tempted? How did I respond to the circumstances?:
3. What is the biblical evaluation of what I said/did when I was tempted? (How does the Bible classify what I said/did?):
4. What should I have said/did when I was tempted? How could I have responded biblically when I was tempted?:

Inner Man (heart):

1. What did I say to myself in my heart when I was tempted? (What did I want, desire, long for when I was tempted?):
2. What does the Bible say about what I said to myself when I was tempted? (What does the Bible say about what I wanted?):
3. What should I have said to myself when I was tempted? (What should I have wanted more than my own selfish and idolatrous desires?):

In the “How not to...” Category

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



The Law of Inescapable Influence...

Illustrated



Two Personal Agenda's Collide



Two Personal Agenda's Collide (cont.)



Biblical Change Summary

- Lasting (biblical) change occurs in the heart—that is the inner person (numerous passages)
- A Christian can change in their inner person because of the Gospel (c.f. 1 Cor. 6:11)
- While God is the one who changes us, we have responsibility to partake of the means of grace (c.f. Phil. 2:12-13)
- The Word is a primary tool that the Spirit uses to change us (c.f. Psa. 1)

Memorize Scripture in Context

Philippians 2 (NASB95)

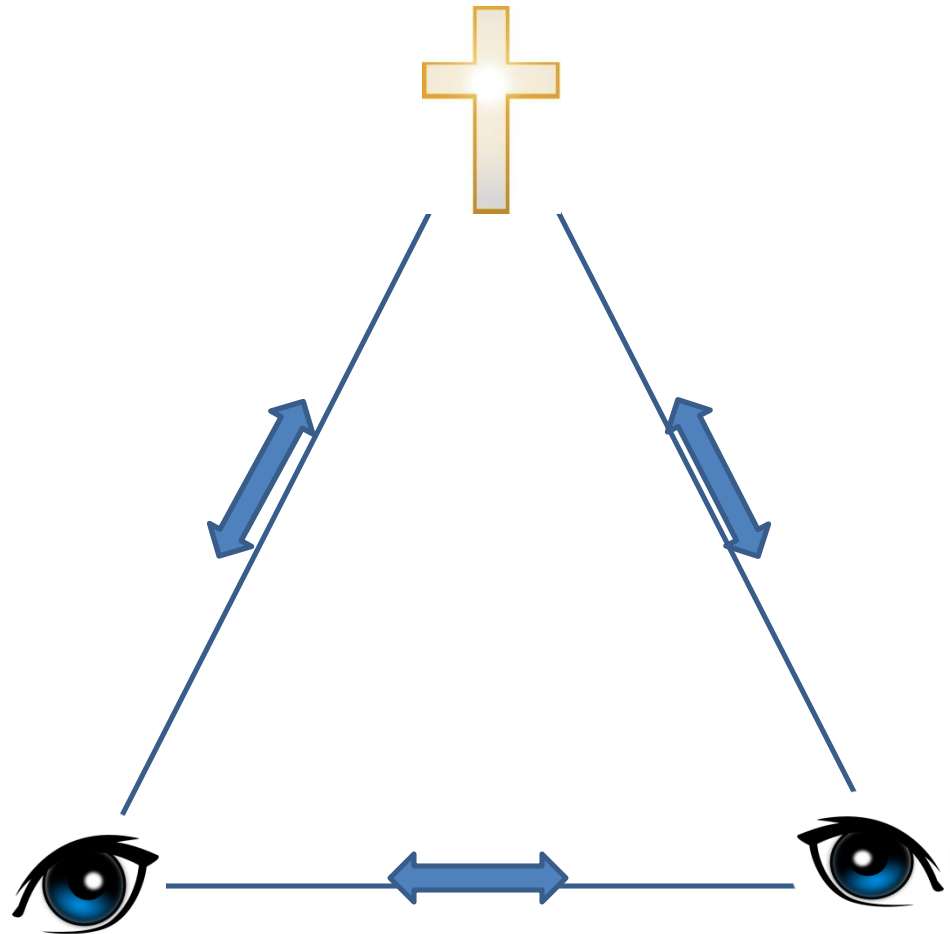
- 1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,
- 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
- 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
- 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
- 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Make Up Quiz!

In the last video, how many times did Tripp use the phrase: “I want?”

Conflict of Kingdoms

- Do you view you spouse first as:
 - Sinning against you? Or...
 - Sinning against God?



Tripp Quotables

Many married couples struggle because they have never had true biblical love for each other....it was romance, self love in a costume.

Many marriages are nothing more than a marital Halloween.

On Desires

James 4:1-3 (NASB95)

1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?

2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Is James saying it is wrong to have desires?

Is James necessarily talking about evil desires in this passages?

If the answer to both of the above is “no,” then what is he talking about?

When a good desire begins to rule you, it has then become a bad desire—otherwise known as idolatry, or false worship

Scripture Memory Exercise #1

Phil. 2:3-4

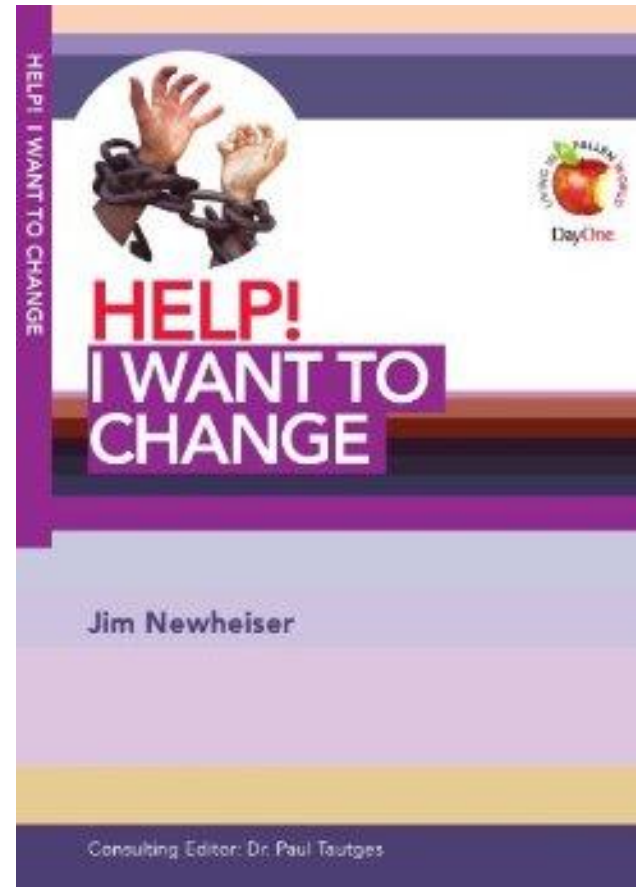
- Read Philippians three times; especially focus on Chapter 2 and the context of the verse
- Take two weeks to memorize it
- In your journal, write out specifically how you are failing to obey this Scripture
- Write out a prayer that asks God to make the heart attitude reflected in this Scripture to be your own

"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, **but with humility of mind** regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Book Recommendation

Help! I Want to Change by
Jim Newheiser

- Emphasizes that lasting, biblical change is:
 - Dependent on the Gospel (Eph 2:8-10)
 - Normally occurs over an extended period of time
 - Requires our efforts, but our efforts remain dependent on God (Phil 2:13)





DQ Time



- Analyze this statement from a biblical frame of reference, and decide if this statement is true, partially true, or not true. Explain your answer and support with Bible verses or principles:

Before a person can learn to love others, they must first learn to love themselves.

Is Self Love Biblical?

"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord." Lev. 19:18

"The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Matt. 22:39

"For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Gal. 5:14

The Bible assumes we already know how to love ourselves; our greatest need is to learn to love others more!

The concept extends to marriage:

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her," Eph. 5:25

"So husbands ought also to love their own wives **as their own bodies**. He who loves his own wife loves himself;" Eph 5:28

"Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife **even as himself**, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband." Eph. 5:33

What About Self Esteem?

James 4:6-10 (NASB95)

6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Paul on Self Esteem

"But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord." 2 Co 10:17 (also, c.f. Jer. 9:24)

"If I have to boast, I will boast of what pertains to my weakness." 2 Co 11:30

"And He has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.'
Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me." 2 Co 12:9

Jesus: On feeling good about yourself

"“Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”Mt 18:4

"“But the greatest among you shall be your servant.”Mt 23:11

"“But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant.”Lk 22:26

Growing in humility is key to growing in biblical self esteem; the path upward is found by esteeming yourself low.

What about self pity?

- Some people are focused on a supposed lack of gifts and abilities—they are always down on themselves.
 - Usually this is a costumed pride
 - Their focus is on self and a desire to elevate self
 - They worry more about what others think of them than what God says about them
 - The biblical antidote is to embrace one's gifts in the context of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:14-25)
- "But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired." 1 Co 12:18

Biblical Self Esteem/Confidence Manifesto

I am a poor, miserable sinner.¹ Everything I have and anything I can do is solely by God's grace.² I will endeavor to use and develop my skills for His glory.³ When I fail, I will try to learn the lesson He is teaching me and make changes.⁴ When I succeed, I will give Him the credit.⁵ I will care less about what other people think about me and more about what God says about me,⁶ Who loves me so much that He died for me;⁷ has forgiven all my sins;⁸ has credited me with Christ's righteousness;⁹ is pleased to call me His child;¹⁰ delights in me;¹¹ has anointed me to royalty;¹² has given me Kingdom work to do;¹³ in which I am called to be less concerned for myself and more concerned for loving service of others;¹⁴ of which I will purpose to accomplish today.

1. Rom. 3:9-18, 23

2. Eph. 2:8-10

3. 1 Cor. 10:31

4. Rom. 8:28

5. 2 Cor. 5:9

6. Matt. 10:28

7. Rom. 5:8

8. Col. 2:13

9. Rom. 3:21-22

10. Gal. 4:4-7

11. Isa. 62:4, Zeph. 3:17

12. 1 Pet. 2:9

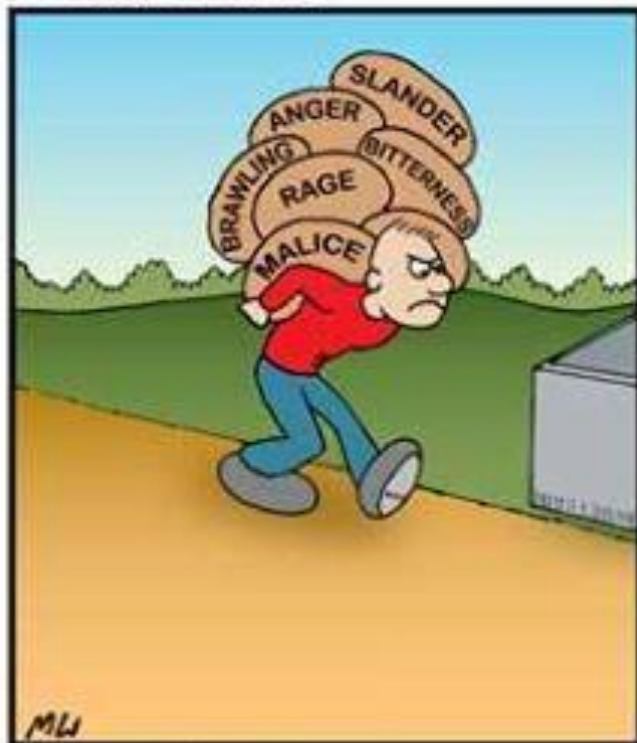
13. Eph. 2:10

14. Phil 2:3-4

Review of Session 4

- How does the selfishness of sin dehumanize the people in my life?
- Marriage is a war between what two kingdoms?
- According to Matthew 6, earthbound treasures are bound up in what two things?

DUMPSTER



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

— EPHESIANS 4:31-32 NIV



DQ Time



- Analyze this statement from a biblical frame of reference, and decide if this statement is or is not biblically valid. What heart attitude(s) are being manifested? Explain your answer and support with Bible verses or principles:

I am so bad, I do not deserve to be forgiven.
In fact, I cannot even forgive myself, so I
how can I expect others to forgive me?

What sins are forgiven?

- All sins, except blaspheming the Holy Spirit, can be forgiven:
"“Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.”Mt 12:31
- David was an adulterer and a murderer and was forgiven (1 Sam. 11)
- Paul was a murderer (Acts 8:1-3), was for a time the Archenemy of the Christian Church, yet was forgiven:
"It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."1 Ti 1:15-16

Who Forgives Sin?

- God forgives our sin (1 John 1:9)
- Others forgive our sin (Eph. 4:32)
- The Bible does not speak to forgiving self because all sin is against God or others:

"Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." 1 Co 6:18-20

Self-loathing is another form of a prideful heart because it rejects God's provision for forgiveness and seeks its own solution to deal with guilt

Scripture Memory Exercise #2

Psalms 51:17

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."Ps 51:17

- The word translated “broken” is the Hebrew [*shabar* /shaw·**bar**/]; “contrite” is the Hebrew [*dakah* /daw·**kaw**/]; both have very similar meanings
 - Can also mean to be crushed, shattered, maimed, or crippled
 - The idea is to be at the end of self
- In these words we see that in redeeming us from sin, God is leading us to humility of heart
- The context of the verse is designed to specifically teach us that mere outward acts of worship are the means but not the end of God’s desire for us

Scripture Memory Exercise #2

Psalms 51:17

- Read Psalm 51 three times; especially focus verses 14-17 to understand the context of the verse
- Take two weeks to memorize it
- In your journal, write out specifically how you are failing to obey this Scripture
- Write out a prayer that asks God to make the heart attitude reflected in this Scripture to be your own

"The sacrifices of God are a **broken spirit**; A **broken** and a **contrite heart**, O God, You will not despise."

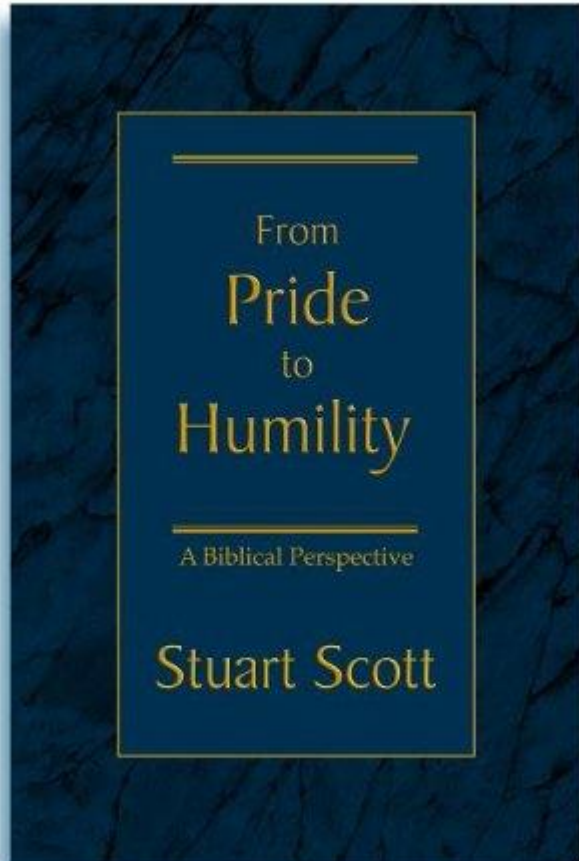
Psa. 51:17

Review of Session 5, Intro to 6

- Husbands: Have you spent more time with your flyrod, shotgun, or computer than you have nurturing your relationship with your wife?
- Wives: How does nurturing your relationship with your husband stack up against children, the household, ladies groups, and hobbies?
- What legacy will you leave?

Book Recommendation:

From Pride to Humility by Stuart Scott



- An excellent biblical analysis of what pride is and what it looks like
- Provides practical guidance on how to move toward humility, and what that looks like

Pride Summary

- Pride, simply defined is focus on self to the exclusion of others, including God
 - My needs
 - My wants
 - My treasures
 - My pleasures
 - My desires
 - My agenda
- Pride is a central sin that is at the root of many types of wrongful thinking
 - Self love
 - Self esteem
 - Self loathing

Wrongful Thinking Example

Joyce Meyer Article: *Loving God, Yourself, and Others**

- No argument with points one and three (loving God and loving others)
- Point #2 is problematic:

When Jesus talked about the greatest commandment of all, He quoted Deuteronomy 6:5 and said we are to love God with all our heart. But He also added the second greatest commandment: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (See Mark 12:31.)

There's something important here that I think people often miss: You cannot give away something you don't have in you. How can someone love another person if they don't love themselves?

We all need to accept ourselves, embrace our personalities and even our imperfections, knowing that although we are not where we need to be, we are making progress. Jesus died for us because we have weaknesses and imperfections, and we don't have to reject ourselves because of them. God wants us to love ourselves and enjoy how He's made us!

* https://www.joycemeyer.org/articles/ea.aspx?article=loving_god_yourself_and_others

Pride Summary (Cont.)

- **Pride is a root sin that is that is manifested in many other branch sins:***

- Complaining against or passing judgment on God
- A lack of gratitude
- Anger
- Seeing yourself as better than others
- Having an inflated view of your gifts and abilities
- Being focused on your lack of gifts and abilities
- Perfectionism
- Talking too much
- Talking too much about yourself
- Seeking independence or control
- Being consumed with what others think
- Being devastated by anger or criticism
- Being unteachable
- Being sarcastic, hurtful, or degrading
- A lack of service
- A lack of compassion
- Being defensive or blame-shifting
- A lack of admitting when you are wrong
- A lack of biblical prayer
- Resisting authority or being disrespectful
- Voicing preferences of opinions when not asked
- Minimizing your own sin and shortcomings
- Maximizing other's sin and shortcomings
- Being impatient and irritable with others
- Being jealous or envious
- Using others
- Being deceitful by covering up sins, faults, and mistakes
- Using attention getting tactics
- Not having close relationships

* Stuart Scott, *From Pride to Humility*, pp. 6-10

Review of Session 6

Gal. 5:13-15

- God intends marriage to be a principle tool of _____.
- With marriage, our tendency is to make the _____ the end.
- In Gal. 5:14, why did Paul say the whole law was summed up in the second greatest commandment?
- Gal. 5:15 is a warning about influence. Is our legacy an extended cold war or growth in warmth and caring? Are you making your spouse a better person or not?



DQ Time



- Analyze this statement from a biblical frame of reference, and decide if this statement is or is not biblically valid. Explain your answer and support with Bible verses or principles:

Some studies suggest a person is born gay due to genetic make-up. Since God made them this way, we may not be interpreting the Bible's warnings against homosexuality correctly.

What Does God Say?

Romans 1:25-27 (NASB95)

25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

What Does God Say?

Leviticus 18:22 (NASB95)

22 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13 (NASB95)

13 'If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

1 Corinthians 6:9 (ESV)

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,

What Does the LGBT Community Claim that the Bible Says?*

The single most important concept that defines sexuality in the ancient Mediterranean world, whether we are talking about the kingdoms of Egypt or of Assyria or whether we are talking about the later kingdoms of Greece and Rome, is that approved sexual acts never occurred between social equals. Sexuality, by definition, in ancient Mediterranean societies required the combination of dominance and submission.... In these societies sexual acts between men did happen, but they happened in order to show dominance of one group of men or a man over another, especially during times of war. It was not uncommon for men who had conquered a foreign army to rape them in order to show they were dominant and of a higher status.

[On Leviticus passages] These verses are part of the Holiness Code in the Old Testament book of Leviticus (chapters 17-26) that attempted to spell out ways the people of Israel would act differently than their Mediterranean neighbors.... These verses in no way prohibit, nor do they even speak, to loving, caring sexual relationships between people of the same gender.

*<http://www.mcckeywest.com/bible.htm>, accessed 8/31/14

On Genetic Determinism*

Genes do not “produce” behavior; they provide the blueprints for the processes involved in constructing proteins within cells. Those proteins might be necessary for a person eventually to exhibit certain behavioral traits, but they are not sufficient by their mere presence to cause the behavioral traits in question. From a biblical perspective, genes, as part of the body, only create the conditions within which a person might be capable of exhibiting behaviors. Thus, certain genes might even be necessary for people to be *vulnerable* to certain problematic behavior patterns. Nevertheless, behaviors are chosen and enacted by *persons*, not proteins or genes. To say that *persons* choose and enact behaviors is to return to the heart as the necessary and sufficient cause of behaviors, because the heart is the “control center” of the person.

Even when a claim of correspondence can be made (that is, people with a certain genetic makeup are prone to a certain behavior pattern), there will be individuals with that genetic makeup who do not exhibit the behavior pattern. Therefore, the genetic makeup is not the sufficient cause of the behavior pattern. *People* make choices for which they are accountable to God

*Jim Newheiser and Jeff Forrey, *Christ Centered Biblical Counseling*



DQ Time!



- Elements of a biblical response to homosexuality
 - It is sin (Rom 1:26-27)
 - It is not God's design for intimacy (Gen 2)
 - As a sexual aberration, it elevates man's thinking and choice above God's clear instructions
 - People practicing homosexuality need grace
 - God can use a person's struggle with homosexual tendencies for His glory
 - As Christians, we must be open to addressing homosexuality on an individual and societal level

Review of Session 7

Gal. 5:13-15

Galatians 5:13-15 (NASB95)

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Review of Session 7

1 John 4:7-10

1 John 4:7-10 (NASB95)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Review of Session 7

- Love is defined by what event?
- What does it mean to say in marriage (and all relationships) we are called to cruciform love?
- Love is:
 - Willing self sacrifice for the good of another.
 - Does not demand reciprocation.
 - Does not demand that the person being loved is deserving.

Review of Session 8

Reflections on John 4

- You can only love properly by God's grace
- What does this statement mean:
Love rescues from love so that you would be able to love
The God who is love sent the son of His love in order to rescue you from self love so that you would be able to love
- What were the "Goldfish on a leash" and "Poodle in an aquarium" stories intended to illustrate?
- "We love, because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)
- True love is not formed out of duty, it is formed out of thankfulness; true thankfulness is rooted in worship

What Did You Expect?

Redeeming the Realities of Marriage

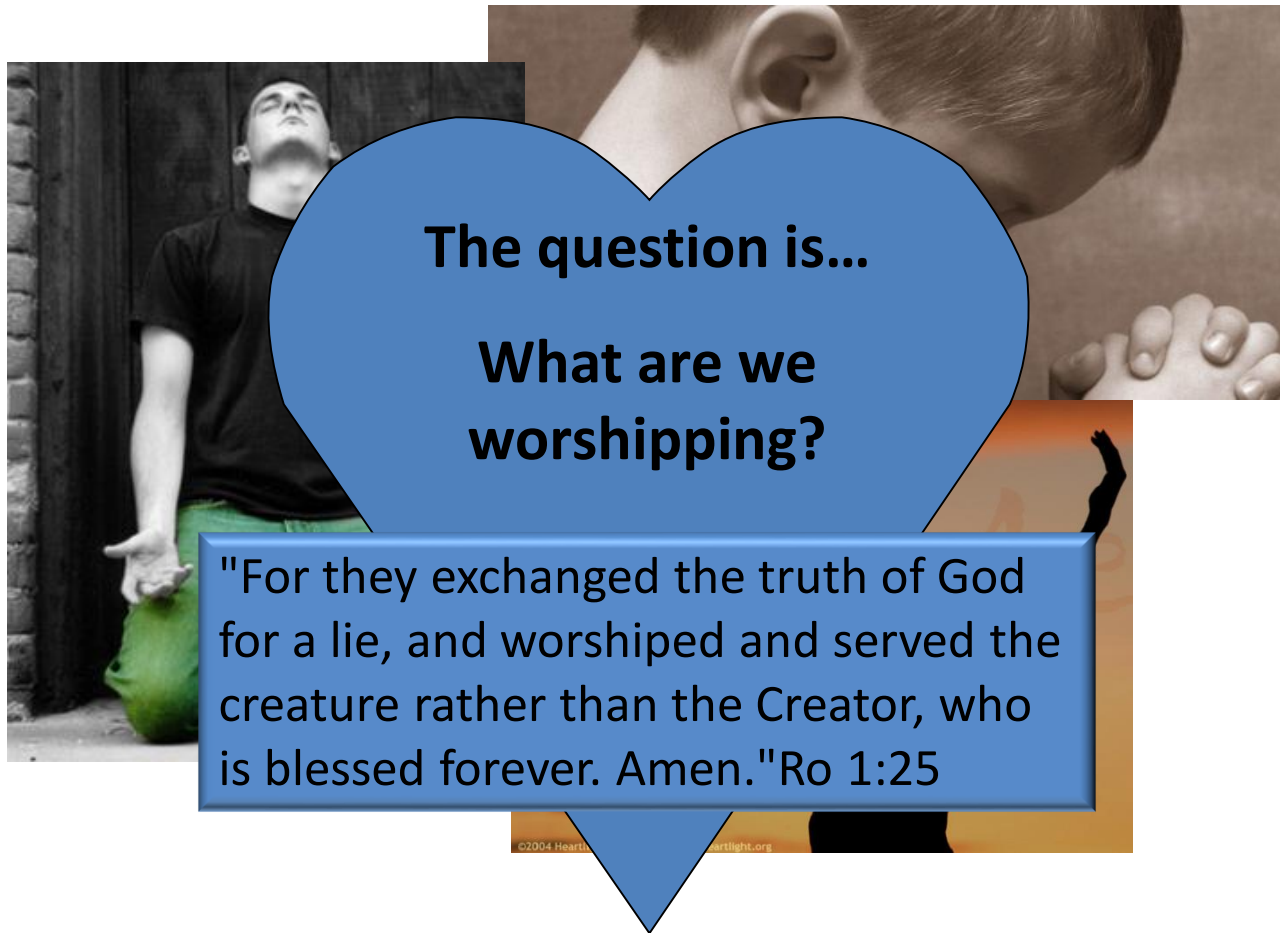
Class Summary



Ring Finger Illustration of Marriage



The key to understanding conflict is...



to understand that God designed us to be
Worshippers

Principle #1

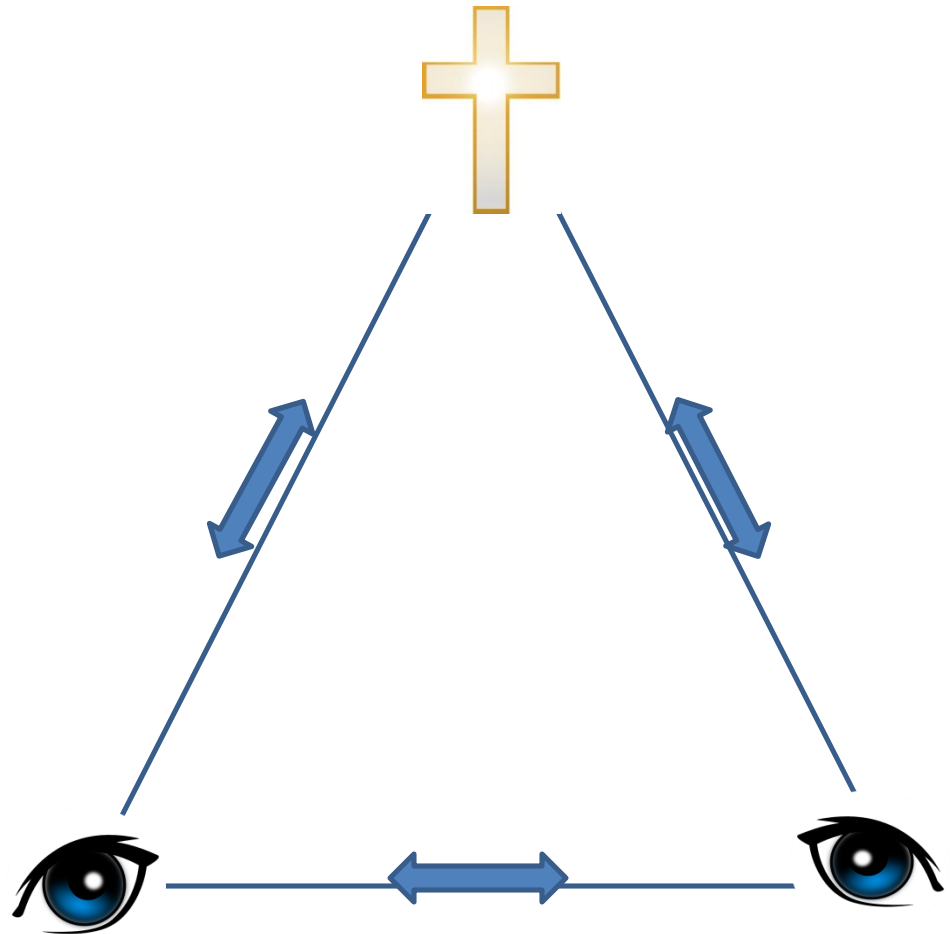
- What rules your heart will shape and rule your relationships
 - Sin causes us to worship the creation instead of the Creator
 - Sin messes up even good desires
 - Example: It is not wrong to desire comfort, but it is wrong to allow it to rule you
 - A desire for a good thing becomes a bad thing when that desire becomes a ruling thing

Key Scripture

"“For there is no good tree which produces bad fruit, nor, on the other hand, a bad tree which produces good fruit. “For each tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a briar bush. “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.” Lk 6:43-45

Conflict of Kingdoms

- Do you view you spouse first as:
 - Sinning against you? Or...
 - Sinning against God?



Quotable from Tripp

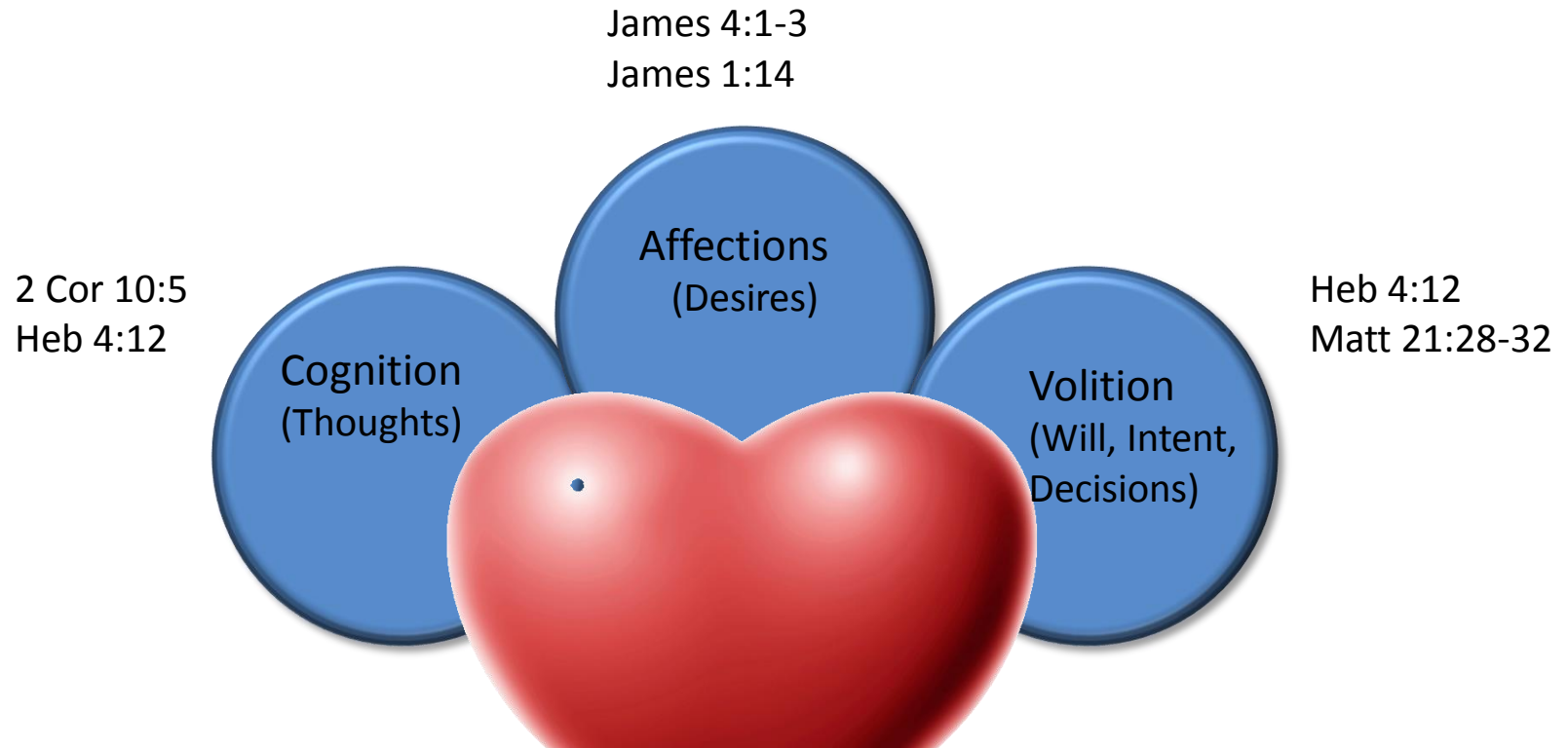
When we are convinced problems arise from outside of us, we stop seeking God's help for ourselves; we focus on blaming others which fuels more conflict. The result is there will be no change, healing, or reconciliation.

Attitude to develop:

I am the greatest problem in my marriage. I will focus on dealing with my sin. If my spouse sins against me, I will ask God to help me be His instrument of mercy towards my spouse, and I will entrust their sanctification to God.

Biblical Heart “Surgery”

Three Aspects of the Heart



Real, lasting, biblical change occurs in the inner person. To describe the inner person, the primary word the Bible uses is the HEART; additional related words include spirit, soul, mind, pleasures, desires, treasure, knowledge.

How Do People Change?

A Christian CAN change because of the Gospel! (1 Cor. 6:11)

The inner change we are talking about is closely connected with the Gospel, and Bible meditation, singing, and worship all seem to be instruments involved in biblical change. (Col. 3:8-16)

The Word is a primary tool the Spirit uses to change us. He also uses our circumstances, prayers, other people, worship, singing, and the sacraments.
(Psa. 1:1-3)

God is the one who changes us, but we have responsibilities in the process of change. (Phil 2:12-13)

Principle #2

- Sin causes us to shrink our lives to the size of our lives
 - I WANT, I WANT, I WANT....my wants, my needs my feelings can rule all of my relationships
 - Sin dehumanizes other people
 - I like you when you help me get what I want—then you are a *vehicle* to my happiness
 - I don't like you when I don't get what I want—then you are an *obstacle* to my happiness
 - We see this dynamic operating in Western dating culture

Key Scriptures

"What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." Jas 4:1-4

"For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another." Ga 5:14-15

Tripp Quotables

Many married couples struggle because they have never had true biblical love for each other....it was romance, self love in a costume.

Many marriages are nothing more than a marital Halloween.

Biblical Self Esteem/Confidence Manifesto

I am a poor, miserable sinner.¹ Everything I have and anything I can do is solely by God's grace.² I will endeavor to use and develop my skills for His glory.³ When I fail, I will try to learn the lesson He is teaching me and make changes.⁴ When I succeed, I will give Him the credit.⁵ I will care less about what other people think about me and more about what God says about me,⁶ Who loves me so much that He died for me;⁷ has forgiven all my sins;⁸ has credited me with Christ's righteousness;⁹ is pleased to call me His child;¹⁰ delights in me;¹¹ has anointed me to royalty;¹² has given me Kingdom work to do;¹³ in which I am called to be less concerned for myself and more concerned for loving service of others;¹⁴ of which I will purpose to accomplish today.

1. Rom. 3:9-18, 23

2. Eph. 2:8-10

3. 1 Cor. 10:31

4. Rom. 8:28

5. 2 Cor. 5:9

6. Matt. 10:28

7. Rom. 5:8

8. Col. 2:13

9. Rom. 3:21-22

10. Gal. 4:4-7

11. Isa. 62:4, Zeph. 3:17

12. 1 Pet. 2:9

13. Eph. 2:10

14. Phil 2:3-4

Pride Summary

- **Pride is a root sin that is that is manifested in many other branch sins:***

- Complaining against or passing judgment on God
- A lack of gratitude
- Anger
- Seeing yourself as better than others
- Having an inflated view of your gifts and abilities
- Being focused on your lack of gifts and abilities
- Perfectionism
- Talking too much
- Talking too much about yourself
- Seeking independence or control
- Being consumed with what others think
- Being devastated by anger or criticism
- Being unteachable
- Being sarcastic, hurtful, or degrading
- A lack of service
- A lack of compassion
- Being defensive or blame-shifting
- A lack of admitting when you are wrong
- A lack of biblical prayer
- Resisting authority or being disrespectful
- Voicing preferences of opinions when not asked
- Minimizing your own sin and shortcomings
- Maximizing other's sin and shortcomings
- Being impatient and irritable with others
- Being jealous or envious
- Using others
- Being deceitful by covering up sins, faults, and mistakes
- Using attention getting tactics
- Not having close relationships

* Stuart Scott, *From Pride to Humility*, pp. 6-10

Principle #3

- Marriage this side of heaven is always a war between two kingdoms: God and self (Gal. 6:19-34)
 - Your life is always shaped by one of two kinds of treasure: self or God
 - Kingdom of self contains our earthbound treasure and anxiety bound needs
 - This is not why we were created to live—doing so “Shrinks our life down to our life.”
 - You don’t fix marriages first horizontally, you fix them vertically (remember chart)
 - On the Cross, God rescues you from you

Key Scripture

1 John 4:7-11, 20

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Love is Defined by the Cross:

- **Love is willing self sacrifice for the good of another that doesn't demand reciprocation or that the person being loved is deserving.**
 - **Willing self sacrifice:** “No one takes my life from me, I lay it down on my own accord.” We need grace to WANT to sacrifice for another
 - **For the good of another:** Love moves towards the other. It always involves sacrifice. “I love you so much I am willing not to win in this conversation. I would rather have peace with you than to win.”
 - **That does not demand reciprocation:** If you wait for reciprocation you are loving yourself, you are loving to get love.
 - **Or that the person being loved is deserving.** No matter what sin the other is guilty of, you are called to cruciform love. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Ro 5:8

Tripp on John 4

- You can only love properly by God's grace
- What does this statement mean:
Love rescues from love so that you would be able to love
The God who is love sent the son of His love in order to rescue you from self love so that you would be able to love
- True love is not formed out of duty, it is formed out of thankfulness; true thankfulness is rooted in worship

Key Scripture

Galatians 5:13-15

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Tripp on Gal. 5:13-15

- God intends marriage to be a principle tool of sanctification.
- With marriage, our tendency is to make the means the end.
- Gal. 5:15 is a warning about influence. Is our legacy an extended cold war or growth in warmth and caring? Are you making your spouse a better person or not?

Tripp on Gal. 5:14-15:

- Husbands: Have you spent more time with your flyrod, shotgun, or computer than you have nurturing your relationship with your wife?
- Wives: How does nurturing your relationship with your husband stack up against children, the household, ladies groups, and hobbies?
- What legacy will you leave?

Worshipping God

As Creator
Psa 139:13-16
Acts 17:28

- God hardwired us
- Our differences reflect His glory—we should celebrate those differences

- Your life works according to His plan
- You are married to the person that God planned you to marry
- God wrote the story of your spouse—learn appreciate it

As Sovereign
Rom 8:28 – 29
Gen 50:20

- What do you do when your spouse sins against you?
- Remember change is a process and not an event
- How can you be an instrument of change in your spouse's life?

As Savior
Rom 6:22
Rom 8:1
Eph 2:8-10

Being a Parent

- How do you see your children?
 - People that share your home for ~20 years then leave?
 - Irritations?
 - Financial drains?
 - Time and energy consumers?
 - Objects of pride?
 - Sources of shame?
 - People made in God's image that must be disciplined in Christ?
 - Sources of joy?
 - Future of the world?
 - Future of the church?
 - Brothers and sisters in Christ?
 - Means of sanctification for you?
- No one is ever in only one camp or the other

Being a Parent

- Love your children like God has loved you
 - With grace, mercy, discipline – these are not opposites
- Bring them up like Jesus: He matured in wisdom, stature, favor of God, and favor of men (Luke 2:52)
- Train them in the Bible's story
 - What God is like and what He requires
- Train them to be an adult
 - You're not raising children, but adults

Keeping Your Children on Your Team

- Recognize your children are gifts from God
- Let them see your unwavering devotion to God
- Show an interest in their future and be willing to invest in their future
- Make sure they feel loved and accepted at home
- Teach the importance of prayer and Scripture
- Set loving limitations for their protection
- Teach them they have a responsibility to develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and their dependence on Him

DQ Time

- **Analyze this situation – what should be done? Applicable Bible verses or principles?**

Philip and Ruth have 4 children, ages 17 to 7. Steven who is 17 is responsible, self-motivated, and tender-hearted. He has a full schedule with school and a part-time job. The 16 year old, Fred, is exactly opposite of Steven, and shows a callousness towards God. The 12 year old, Peter, looks up to Steven, but is relentlessly bullied by Fred for being a do-gooder and a suck-up. The 7 year old, Josie, has learning difficulties. Ruth is homeschooling the youngest 3 children, but can hardly get through a day without Fred wrecking havoc with his bad behavior and aggravation of the younger children.

Ruth is at her wits end and while Philip is sympathetic, his job requires long hours and travel. Since he has limited time at home he doesn't want to be as firm with Fred (and the others) as Ruth wants. He doesn't want to be in "confrontation mode" in the little time he has at home.

What should they do?

DQ Time

- Fred's rebellion should have been dealt with earlier – but start now!
 - Address his sin in appeals to his conscience.
- Consider sending Fred to Christian day school
 - But they can't fix him and he may find other rebels
- Philip must fulfill his responsibility
 - Limited home time is no excuse for inaction or weak action toward Fred's rebellion
 - Reinforce Peter's positive desires

Case Study: Liz and John

Liz and John had been married for less than a year when they realized they needed help. Any couple experiences a lot of adjustments the first year, but not as many as these two were experiencing. Married life was a nightmare for both of them! They acted like they hated one another.

Both Liz and John were students, Liz in graduate school. They had heavy demands on their time, and she would now admit she put her research higher on her priority list than her marriage. He would also admit that playing with their money through online investing became more than a hobby. She took her schoolwork seriously, but even though he was gifted academically he was satisfied with B's instead of A's. Consequently, when he wanted to spend the evening online or watching television she would get irate and accuse him of being irresponsible. He accused her of loving school more than him. Can you sense the tension building?

Finally things escalated to yelling and locking one another out of the apartment. It got particularly ugly when one was partly out in the hall trying to push their way through the door as the other tried to keep them out. Events like these compounded their misery and prompted them to seek help.

Additional information:

Liz and John did not really have much idea how good relationships work. Neither one had a good model in the homes they grew up in. Liz's parents were currently in the process of splitting up. John tended to be quiet (except when fighting her) and had a terrible relationship with his father. His parents' marriage was miserable also.