

Heart Series

Part Two

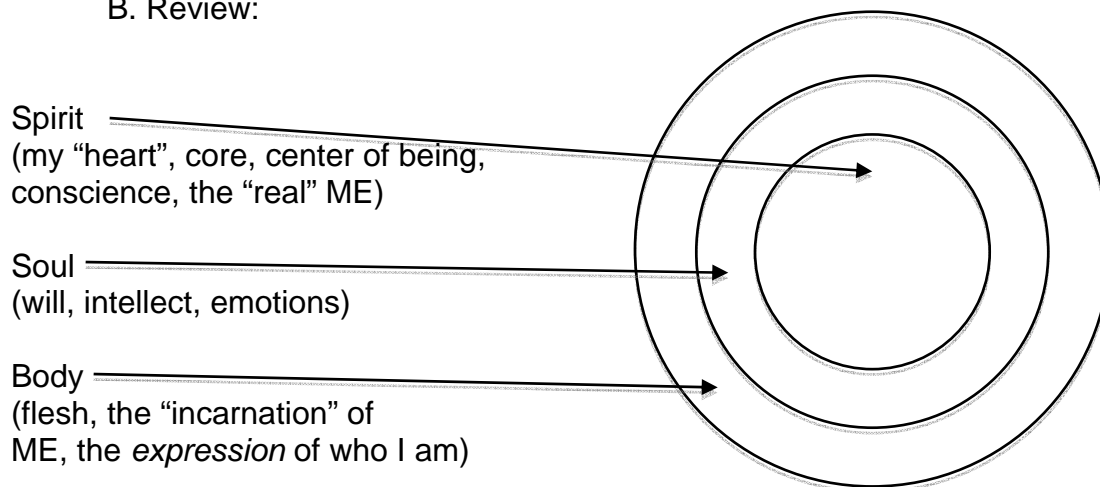
The Mind Justifies What the Heart Has Chosen

Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.
Proverbs 4:23 New Living Testament

I. Review: Man Is Spirit, Soul and Body (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

A. So which is the “real” me? That is the wrong question. It’s all me, but it’s the *heart* (spirit) that is designed by the Creator to set the course of life.

B. Review:



C. Throughout the scriptures, the term “heart” is used to describe the spirit or “nature” of a person.

D. The heart of me, my “nature” or spirit, informs my mind so that my choices originate within the boundaries of what is appealing to my heart.

- I know what your mind is thinking by what you do and say (behavior)
- I know what your heart has chosen by your perspective on life (worldview)

II. The Mind Will Justify What the Heart Chooses

A. Our real choices take place at the HEART level and are based on the nature, condition, and affections of our spirit.

1. The mind chooses according to what the heart is predisposed to do.
2. So when I (in my heart) want to DO something or BELIEVE something, the mind goes into action to justify what I have already decided to do.

“justify”

to authorize, make legal, give sufficient grounds for, explain, support, or make excuses
The Synonym Finder, J.I. Rodale

B. I see what I *want* to see. So do you.

III. The Most Important Term You Never Heard of: Presuppositional Thinking

A. The human heart acquires a set of “presuppositions” that govern us.

Presuppositions are the spiritual agendas, conscious or unconscious, by which we order our assumptions about ourselves and our environment.

1. These are the “guiding lights” of life, more deeply held than intellectual beliefs.
2. We may or may not be aware of them, but they *are* there.
3. They determine what we do and how we feel about things.
4. Until we become *AWARE* of the personal presuppositions of our own hearts, we can never understand why we believe what we believe and do what we do; nor can we understand how to relate to others!

B. Examples of Presuppositional Thinking as Ideological “Isms”

1. ***Atheism*** is a choice the mind makes when the heart has chosen to disbelieve in God.

**The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
Psalm 14:1 NASB**

a. The most basic question we can ask a person is, “Do you believe in a created universe?” If the answer is “No”, there can be no further discussion, because the only alternative to created order is uncreated “disorder”, which disallows rational discussion.

The notion that the universe is randomly evolving with no intelligent direction would argue that enough monkeys given enough typewriters and plenty of time would eventually produce the “The Complete Works of Shakespeare”; or lead to choosing to believe that human beings evolved from single cells and are randomly selected based on fitness to survive (I am the product of slime + time). As for me, I stopped smoking that stuff a long time ago.

Pastor Ray's Journal

b. The heart chooses this position because the alternate position, creationism, would stipulate a Creator and thus not be “free”.

**If there is no God, all things are permissible.
Dostoevsky**

2. **Marxism, Socialism and Communism** are ideological systems which presuppose that government ought to hold the power of money and distribution of wealth regardless of individual personal responsibility.

C. There is a worldview or set of presuppositions governing everyone.

1. *The 6 o'clock news*-Those who decide what to report, how to report it, and how much time an item gets have agendas. How a news director or reporter feels about the war on Iraq, the current president, or certain political candidates DOES come into play!
2. A research scientist has a presupposition regarding whether or not we live in a created universe.
3. The teachers in public school bring worldviews to the classroom which determine how they teach and what they teach.

IV. Presuppositional Thinking for Christ-Followers: The Biblical Worldview

A. What the Bible says about human hearts in their *natural* (pre-Christ) condition:

**And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
Gen. 6:5 KJV**

**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
Jer. 17:9 KJV**

**God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.
John 3:17-21 NLT**

(Notice we are judged on what we love...light or darkness...and love is a function of the heart!)

B. The regeneration of the human heart is a virtual "heart transplant".

**Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers...But this shall be the covenant that I will make...After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
Jer 31:31-33 KJV**

**Thus saith the Lord God; I will even gather you from the people, And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh that they may walk in my statutes and keep mine ordinances and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.
Ezek 11:17, 19-20 KJV**

C. The litmus test of genuine believers is at the "heart" level.

- The regenerated heart will incline the will and the mind toward God and His word
- There will be a new set of *affections*-a sense that all things are becoming “new”
- A deep sense of sorrow over sinful thoughts and deeds
- A determination to re-order life according to God’s word
- The “natural” becomes the “super-natural” because the work is done by God.

D. When the heart has been renewed, our lives can come into divine order-spirit, soul and body.

1. The heart informs the mind as the mind is “renewed.”
2. Conformity to the world is replaced by conformity to Christ.
3. Opinions and thought processes are re-directed by a new set of presuppositions, namely “the Kingdom of God.”

V. Examples of Kingdom Presuppositions

A. An Intentional Departure from *Independent Learning*, i.e., seeking knowledge independent of God’s truth, jettisoning all that contradicts God’s clear word on a subject.

Just because we’ve heard something all our lives that is universally believed, we must be ready to change our mind when confronted with facts!

- ***George Washington was not the first president of the United States! (He was actually the FOURTH!) A simple historical search will confirm it was John Hanson! <http://www.marshallhall.org/hanson.html>***
- ***“Separation of church and state” is not in any of the founding father’s documents. It’s origin is in a letter written by Thomas Jefferson to Baptist pastors in Connecticut assuring them that the state would not invade the church! The whole issue was not to keep the church out of the government-it was to keep the government out of the church!***

If you could be wrong about these things, could you be wrong about the Gospel?

1. Sin began when our first father sought “the knowledge of good and evil” independent of God’s revelation (Genesis 2:17; 3:1-6)
2. My personal opinions are nailed to the Cross of Christ. I submit to what God says about war, homosexuality, abortion, global warming, politics and my relationship to money*

**Checkpoint: If a professing Christian finds himself taking a position opposed to any clear teaching in the Word of God, (i.e., tithing, abortion), the first question ought to be, “what position has my heart chosen that my mind is seeking to justify by fighting God on this?”*

B. The New Heart will be Rooted in the Soil of *Humility* expressed in an Attitude of *Repentance*. (Gk. “metanoia”- a change of mind)

C. A Conscious Re-focusing on Christ and His Kingdom

**Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and God will give you everything you need.
Matthew 6:33**

VI. Do We Really Want the Kingdom? Do we really want to challenge world systems and replace them with God's order?

A. Testimony-almost 30 years ago God led me to some Christian thinkers and teachers who has "seen" (grasped) the Kingdom of God. This caused me to abandon the ubiquitous, ever popular doctrine of the "any minute rapture" of the righteous (the Bible says it's the wicked who will be swept away) and get serious about accepting my responsibilities for the hard work of making disciples and changing nations.

B. Realize that the root of humanity's problems is not God, it's the human heart!

- Adolf Hitler systematically exterminated six million Jews
- The Dred Scott decision dehumanized African-Americans, defining them as "1/3 human."
- Evolution dehumanizes man as made in the image and likeness of animals instead of in the image and likeness of God with the logical result-a reduction in the value of human life, expressed in abortion on one end and euthanasia on the other.
- Glorification of sex without covenant, which degrades the value of both participants

C. All of these behaviors (fruits) find their origins (roots) in the human heart.

VII. Conclusion

- If you've never been "born again" and received a new heart, repent of your sin and humble yourself before God now.
- If you've been regenerated and have been given a new heart, you ought to be able to know when your heart is turning away from God and the things God cares about.
- In any case, whatever your condition, this axiom holds true: the mind will justify what the heart has chosen!