

In Jeremiah 17:9-10 we learn how the human heart was corrupted by sin. The *(New Living Translation)* says, “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? **10**. But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.”

Our Hearts: The key to Lasting change

The human heart is:

- *the unconscious mind*
- *the instrument of reason*

- *the seat of human emotion and personality; and,*
- *the threshold of human consciousness where mental activities live under.*
- *Every problem is a problem in the human heart; we'll never really know what's in our heart until it's tested by life problems.*

*In **Luke 6:43-45** (The New Century Version of the Bible) Jesus says, "A good tree does not produce bad fruit, nor does a bad tree produce good fruit. **44.** Each tree is known by its own fruit. People don't gather figs from thorn bushes, and they don't get grapes from bushes. **45.** Good people bring good things out of the good they stored in their hearts. But evil people bring evil things out of the evil they stored in their hearts. People speak the things that are in their hearts.*

- *In all of human society there are two types of people-- good people, and bad people.*

Is it possible to come to some sense of agreement when there's really nothing new with many of the problems we're facing today in society – and most can be traced back to traced to conditions of the heart.

Genesis 6:5 When the Lord God saw the extent of human wickedness, and that the trend and direction of men's lives were only towards evil, **6** he was sorry he had made them. It broke his heart. (*The Living Bible*)

The human heart is the environment where the will, intellect and emotion

produce the ability to control the human personality.

For example, the Bible talks about the different categories of hearts that can be in a person's life, including:

- *Hardened heart*
- *Deceitful heart*
- *Stony heart*
- *Wicked heart*
- *Separate heart*
- *Fainting heart*
- *Discouraged heart*
- *Sorrowful heart*
- *Grieved heart*
- *Trembling heart*
- *Glad heart*

- *Merry heart*
- *Willing heart*
- *Settled heart*
- *Good heart*

Many in human society don't understand the content of the hearts of people influences their lifestyles.

- *Racism, inequity, racial bias, economic oppression and police violence against blacks stems from a heart issue.*
- *Fact: the police in Minneapolis used force against black people at a rate at least seven times that of white people during the past five years.*

*The psalmist David says in **Proverbs 4:23** in the (New Living Translation). Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

- *Remember: The fruits of life result from the course our life was set on as a child.*

Proverbs 22:6 *Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain upon it. (The Living Bible)*

No child is born to be a racist; their values, beliefs and biases are influenced and taught early in life by their parents and family.

Racial bias is a product of our environment, what others continually tell you; and, a product of life experiences.

- *Life experiences are the most powerful tool to assess how we treat others who aren't like us.*

What we allow to influence our thought life always impacts our heart. Too many times we allow what we hear to run our lives.

- *The condition of our heart is influenced by what we hear on a continual basis.*

Proverbs 4:23 *Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life. (New Century Version of the Bible),*

- *What we hear causes thinking...what we think and feel eventually becomes a habit and lifestyle.*

So How Do We Change Our Hearts?

1. We must first acknowledge the problem(s)

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

2. Identify solutions

*The psalmist David says in **Psalm 51:10**, Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renews a right spirit within me.*

3. Take Accountable Action

When the heart is changed, the mind will change; when the mind is changed, life will change.