

## WHOLE HEART RELIGION

Text: Luke 10:25-29

INTRO: The lawyer of Luke 10 knew what he needed to know, and Jesus commended his knowledge. About 6 months later, during the final week of His personal ministry, Jesus Himself was asked the question He had earlier asked this lawyer. READ MARK 12:28-34.

Tho there is some overlapping, the "heart" of man as used in these verses, involves three basic factors: (1) the intellect, (2) the emotions, and (3) the will.

It is in these 3 areas that we must rein ourselves in & submit to God's instructions. And it is in these 3 areas that Satan & his forces will continue to bombard us with the lust of the flesh to appeal to our will, the lust of the eyes to appeal to our emotions, and the pride of life to appeal to our intellect, 1 John 2:16.

Let us consider:

### I. THE INTELLECT.

A. There are certain things we must know in order to even begin to establish a right relationship with God.

1. Romans 10:13-17
2. John 8:32

B. Within a congregation of God's people, there will always be folks at different levels of knowledge. 1 Cor 8:4, 8

- C. Even the most knowledgeable of us do not know everything. Rom. 8:26
- D. We must pray, with David, "Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults." (Psalm 19:12).

## II. THE EMOTIONS.

- A. Sometimes we ask, "How can I like a person who is mean, uncaring & hurtful?" Answer: You probably can't. At least, not at first. But you can love him. The love that God commands does not primarily rise from the emotions, but from the intellect & the will.
- B. But our relationship with God must involve our emotions.
  - 1. James 5:13.
  - 2. READ LUKE 7:36-48.
  - 3. READ ACTS 20:37-38.
- C. Brother Hicks: "Should we serve God from fear or from love?"
  - 1. Usually, our service begins from fear. If we don't fear God, we don't know enough about Him to love Him!
  - 2. But as our love grows our fears subside. "Perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).

3. Which of us can claim that his or her love is so totally complete or perfect that there is no longer a need or place for fear? Not me!

D. It may take a lifetime for me to learn to properly value things spiritual and temporal. To love what I should love and to hate what I should hate. May God help me learn what I should do, and do what I have learned.

III. THE WILL. We must make a decision--a commitment. We must become willing to do His will above our own desires or will. Submit our will to His.

A. We will not always be thrilled or pleased to do so. Matt. 5:44  
R.Y.R., Mark 10:21-22

B. God accepts our obedience even when our personal wills do not desire to do the thing commanded.

1. Jesus had a personal desire to avoid the cross. He did not want men to nail Him, hand & foot, to a cross. He did not want them to crown Him with thorns. He did not want to be spit on. He did not want them to hit Him with their fists.

But He submitted his personal "will" to the will of the Father, as He always did.

READ MATTHEW 26:36-39, 42

...I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. (John 5:30).

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (John 6:38).

For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me" (Rom. 15:3).

2. Simon Peter in LUKE 5:1-5.
3. King Saul. I SAM.15:9-14, 22-23.
4. Abraham. Gen. 22:1-2;

READ HEB 11:17-19

B. As time goes on, & as we grow & progress in our journey toward heaven, we will come to enjoy doing most of the things that please God. But in the mean time, we must set our hearts & minds, to submit our wills to His will. "To obey is better..." And God will accept our obedience.

CONCLUSION: God seeks men & women who will feed their intellect upon His word; who will seek to bring their emotions into harmony with His sense of values; who will do His will even when it hurts. And He will abundantly bless those who will do these things.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 6, 1995

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, December 11, 2005