



Proverbs

The Wise Understand the Heart

1.



Deconstructing Culture

The Wise Understand the Heart

The World follows its father, Adam – "**The Blamer**"

- we cannot fix ourselves
- we will not recognize our own depravity

We use **therapy** and **medicine** to deal with sin problems

- we are necessarily "**The Victim**" if we can direct blame elsewhere
- our focus becomes the external, rather than the internal

Proverbs Argues:

1. The root problem is not the external, but the Heart
2. There is a **cause-effect relationship** between the Heart and Life
3. The wise will embrace ownership of sin, and will reject blame

2.



Deconstructing Culture

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What does the Bible say about the Heart?

The Heart IS:

your center, essence, nature -- who you truly are

The Heart AFFECTS:

your mind, conduct, speech, imagination, reasoning, will, etc

Matthew 22:37

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

3.





Proverbs and the Heart

The Wise Understand the Heart

- 3:1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments.
- 3:3 Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4:23 Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
- 11:20 Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the Lord, but those of blameless ways are his delight.
- 12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy.
- 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.
- 14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with the fruit of his ways, and a good man will be filled with the fruit of his ways.
- 27:19 As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

4.



Cause-Effect : Heart and Life

The Wise Understand the Heart

Your life is a **reflection** of your Heart

Legalistic Change - **behavioral** change, without addressing the Heart

Looks like

- changing our morality, ethics, lifestyles
- emphasizing surface issues: pornography, drugs, anger, dishonesty

The importance of a dynamic prayer life!

5.





Proverbs and the Heart

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- 10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.
- 14:30 A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.
- 15:14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of the fools feed on folly.
- 16:5 Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished.
- 18:12 Before destruction, a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.
- 21:4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin.
- 23:7 For he is like one who is inwardly calculating. "Eat and drink!" he says to you but his heart is not with you.

6.



Beware Self-Deception

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- 20:5 The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.
- 21:2 All a man's ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart.
- 25:20 Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.
- 19:3 When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the Lord.

7.





Proverbs and the Heart Recap

The Wise Understand the Heart

1. The Heart is **deceptive**
2. The Heart is **wicked**
3. The Heart is prone to **self-justify**

8.



Only Jesus Can Heal

The Wise Understand the Heart

Deuteronomy 30:6

And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Romans 2:29

But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man, but from God.

9.



The Wise Understand the Heart

Proverbs, the Heart, and the Gospel

The Gospel:

God changes our hearts and it is his righteousness that we are given

Our Response:

1. We repent of our sins
2. We believe Jesus

10.



The Wise Understand the Heart

11.