

Heart Mouth Connection

Can people really change?

- When assessing someone with whom to employ, marry or to become business partners, history provides the best indicator of future performance.
- Every person has Life Patterns—behaviors that are characteristic over a lifetime—positive and negative
- **Negative patterns can be changed**—following Christ is a transformational process
- The first step towards change is **recognition**.

Proverbs 4:20-27

You possess the power to change your life!

Heart = emotional center where decisions are launched

- Writer of Proverbs told us that the heart determines the course of one's life
- Three Dimensions of Our Relationship with Money—Practical, Emotional & Spiritual
 - Emotional (heart) issues with money—joy, stress or freedom; guilt, pride or shame; envy, status or burden
 - Spiritual beliefs about money:
 - God is for us—invites us into shalom—flourishing—abundant life
 - God's desires for us is transformation
 - For our heart to belong to God requires for our money and time to belong to God also
 - We see ourselves as either owners or managers of our money
 - Our understanding and relationship with God determines whether we operate from a mentality of abundance or scarcity concerning money
 - Our spiritual beliefs and our emotional IQ (EQ) determines the practical uses of our money—how we earn, spend, invest, give and save—leading to lack, stability or surplus financially
 - **The biblical view is to live with surplus in order to be able to give always for every worthy and Spirit-directed opportunity**

Transformation requires heart surgery!

Our desire is to rid ourselves of or reduce the power that wrath, lust, greed, sloth, envy, pride and gluttony have over us.

You have the power to change your life! We all do! There is a heart-mouth connection.

- Give much attention to God's Word
- Keep God's Word before your eyes (read it)
- Put away a deceitful mouth (speaking contrary to God's Word)

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

- Shalom—flourishing—abundant life is not hard to find
- It is not too difficult for you
- It is not out of your reach
- It is not an unsolvable mystery
- It is in your mouth and in your heart (vs. 14)
- Choose life

Psalms 119:11

- "Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against you."
- We hide God's Word in our hearts through our eyes and ears (reading, speaking, hearing)
- What we see and hear influences our hearts—determining the course of our lives

- To change course requires putting God's transformational Word before our eyes and in our mouths.
- **Heart-Mouth Connection**

Psalm 19:14

- Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.
- **CHOOSE LIFE!**

Discussion Guide

Primary Text: Proverbs 4:27-30, Deuteronomy 30:11-20

In quiet and ordinary ways followers of Jesus are being transformed. Sometimes the transformation is a sudden burst where the changes are dramatic. Most of the time, though, the transformation is that slow process some theologians call sanctification.

In Colossians 3, Paul urges us to renew our inner selves with organs of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearance, forgiveness, and Love (vv. 12-14). We should not only want to be merciful, kind, unassuming, and patient persons, we are also to make plans to become so. We are to find out, that is, what prevents and what promotes mercifulness and kindness and patience in our souls, and we are to remove hindrances to them as much as possible, carefully substituting that which assists Christlikeness.

To be a follower of Christ means to be a person that believes that we can change for the better. In hope we do our best to find the ways in which we can take on the character of the children of God. This is the path of radical change—change sufficient to meet the needs of the world and prepare a people to be the habitation of God.

Questions

Do you believe that people can change? Do you believe that you can change?

What is holding you back from making the necessary changes in your life?

What are some of the processes of thinking and acting that you need to change in your life?