

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

February 4, 2018

Eph. 4:3 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

The Heart of the Matter

- THE HEART IS CENTRAL (Pv. 4:23)
- THE HEART IS DECEITFUL (Jer. 17:9-10)
- THE HEART IS REDEEMABLE

KEY POINT: The condition of the heart impacts the quality of the relationship

TEXT: Eph. 4:17-24

- **The impact of a hardened heart**

Darkened in their understanding
Separated from the life of God
Hardening of hearts: rooted in sin
Results in a loss of sensitivity and self-absorption

WHEN THE HEART IS FOCUSED ON “I” it destroys relationships and self

- **We are able to live different because of Jesus**

Focuses on the One who gave His life to transform hearts
“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezek. 36:26

- **We have to choose what “self” is going to lead**

NEW: renewed, restored to its original condition

HOW TO LIVE DIFFERENT

1. Examining my heart in His presence

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” Ps. 139:23-24

HE LOVES US as we are yet LOVES US TOO MUCH to leave us as we are

2. Taking responsibility for my stuff

Choosing to work on me before I try to fix you

3. Choosing to live the “NEW SELF”

Allowing His grace to empower and direct our lives
Resting in His Spirit and learning from His word

Response: Allowing God transform my heart so I can love well