Biblical Care and Discipleship

Welcome! Please pick up notes in the front and sign in.

One set of notes per couple—for now...

Thanks!!
My friend Larry

• Love  “The love of Christ compels us”
• Truth  “Truth in a world of theory”
• Gospel  “The gospel is not just a message to believe but a person to follow”
• Culture with tremendous needs— “The darker the night the brighter the light of God’s Word shines.”
• Great Commission— “Go make followers”
• The local church— “The incubator for spiritual growth” / “unleash the potential of the church”
Philosophy of training and discipleship

• **Content**—Information

• **Character**—Heart/being

• **Competence**—Skills/doing

• **Community**—“One another”
A Crucial foundation—Understanding the heart.

A Biblical view of Anthropology and Hamartiology

I. The “Three Trees” Diagram

II. A Biblical view of why we do what we do.

- Mark 7:21-23
- Proverbs 4:23
- Jeremiah 17:9
God-given resources for change
• [church/one anothers] hebrews 3:12-13
• [word] psalm 119:11
• [Holy Spirit] galatians 4:6

Synonyms for the word “heart”
[desires] wants [will] volition
lusts [mind] thoughts
[intentions] motives
Understanding the Heart

III. **Heart definitions**

A. Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew, Aramaic, English Lexicon

1) The inner man in contrast with the outer

2) The inner man -- comprehending mind, affections and will

3) Specific reference to mind

4) Specific reference to inclinations, resolutions, and determinations of the will

5) Conscience

6) As the seat of the appetites and passions
“One’s inner self, seat of feeling and emotions, inclination, disposition, will, reason, the mind in general.”
Understanding the Heart

B. Theological Workbook of the Old Testament

“In its abstract meanings, ‘heart’ became the richest biblical term for the totality of man’s inner or immaterial nature.”
“…the three traditional personality functions of man; emotion, thought, or will.”

C. A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament

•…the center and source of the whole inner life, with its thinking, feeling and volition….
•Of the faculty of thought,…of understanding…
•Of the will and its decisions (to make up the mind).
•Emotions, wishes, desires
D. Thoughts on Hebrews 4:12

1. Your heart has “thoughts” (imagination, dwell on, fantasize, ponderings, ideas—enthumesis)

2. Your heart has “intentions” (purposes, plans, resolves— ennoia) Can you see how both of these tie in with desires, lusts, passions, wants, “needs”?

Interesting note on Hebrews 3 and 4. When the author quotes the Old Testament he puts it in the present tense! The Holy Spirit “is saying.” Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is living—the author believes it.” Puritans used to say, “What God’s Word says, God is saying.”
Abraham Maslow “As far as I know we just don’t have any intrinsic instincts for evil. If you think in terms of basic needs; instincts, at least at the outset, are all ‘good’ or perhaps we should be technical about it and call them ‘pre-moral,’ neither good nor evil.”
Carl Rogers“ For myself, though I am very aware of the incredible amount of destructive, cruel, malevolent behavior in today’s world—from the threats of war to the senseless violence in the streets—I do not find that this evil is inherent in human nature.”
Rogers “I see members of the human species, like members of other species, essentially constructive in their fundamental nature, but damaged by their experience.”

Rogers “…experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors.”

WHAT THE PSYCHOLOGIES SAY
The heart it not fundamentally good (as most secular thinkers would say)

Even believers struggle with remnant sin even though we are new creations “in Christ.”

The heart is active (it is thinking and has intents). It is not passive—that is, it is interacting with the pressures of life and forming agendas. This is important for understanding the difference between a biblical model and a secular model. I am not just a passive victim being acted upon and others are forcing me to be a certain way.

It takes work to understand, even though we will never totally understand (Proverbs 20:5)! And, when you do understand please revel in grace instead of being stuck in morbid introspection.
V. It’s all about worship

A. We were made to worship the true God
   • Romans 11:36
   • I Corinthians 10:31

B. We turn to other things (gods)
   • Romans 1:25
UNDERSTANDING THE HEART

C. Proof that all humans are “religious”

• Indicators of doing something “religiously”
  • Study
  • Dedicated
  • Sing
  • Witness
  • Sacrifice
  • Worship
  • Excited
  • Identity
A LOT OF WORSHIP GOES ON IN LIFE!
UNDERSTANDING THE HEART

Augustine “O LORD, you made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until it finds its rest in You.”
UNDERSTANDING THE HEART

John Piper “The world has an inexpressible longing. It tries to satisfy the longing with scenic vacations, accomplishments of creativity, stunning cinematic productions, sexual exploits, sports extravaganzas, hallucinogenic drugs, ascetic rigors, managerial excellence, etc. But the longing remains. What does this mean?”

Dr. Baker’s comment—all humans are on a quest for something(s). There is restlessness in the human heart and only fulfilling our creation design of being worshipers of the LORD will still it!
UNDERSTANDING THE HEART

Paul Tripp “An idol of the heart is anything that rules me other than God. As worshiping beings, human beings always worship someone or something. This is not a situation where some people worship and some people don’t. If God isn’t ruling my heart, someone or something will. It is the way we are made” (Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands).
D. Understanding the first and second commandments (Ex. 20:1-6)

- Isaiah 42:5-13
- Isaiah 44:6-20

The LORD does not share His glory, and we were not made to give glory to other things, so He will work to help us rid ourselves of those things

E. Psalm 18 – A Template (it is easy to allow other things to become rocks and refuges!)

- Rock
- Fortress
- Deliverer
- Refuge
What am I putting my hope in? What do I run to for dealing with pressure? What do I rejoice in? What do I bow to/serve? Notice that these are all words related to worship. How does the heart change? A regenerated heart can change as superior worship pushes out inferior worship. In other words, hope in, rejoice in, run to the Superior One of the universe instead of inferior temptations of this planet.
VI. Other Biblical concepts related to the inner person (the soul).
   A. Broken cisterns—the things we serve only temporarily satisfy
   B. Treasures—learn to treasure superior things
   C. Loves—learn to love superior things and the superior One.

What are your broken cisterns?
What are your treasures? How can you tell what a person treasures?
What do you love? How can you tell what a person loves?
VII. Suggested themes to explore for yourself

A. Comfort—ahh, relaxation!
B. Pleasure
C. Sports—my identity is my team
D. Control—I must get my to do list done
E. Entertainment
F. Food
UNDERSTANDING THE HEART

VII. Suggested themes to explore for yourself.

G. Education – My identity is my degree
H. People— I “need” the acceptance/approval of others.
I. Success
J. Respect— I demand respect!
K. Justice— “It’s not fair!”

These are just common examples of the many things that humans can serve. Add your own.
THE ORIGINATION OF SIN AND SUFFERING
(GENESIS 3)

I. The cause of sin and suffering (sowing)

God had given **specific** counsel (Gen 2:16-17)

A. **Doubting** (3:1)
B. **Devaluing** (3:1-5)
C. **Distorting** (3:1-3)
D. **Denying** (3:4)
E. **Denouncing** (3:5)
F. **Distrusting** (3:1-6)
G. **The Tempter/The Devil**
Review—the heart is mind, volition (decisions), emotions, affections, desires. Look at the passage again and note the following:

- Mind
- Decisions
- Emotions
- Affections (loves, hopes, rejoicings [things that stir the inner person])
- Passions/desires/appetites

Conclusion—the heart and worship are going on even though the word heart isn’t used.
IMPACT/RESULTS OF THE FALL—I BELIEVE THE SEED OF EVERY SIN IS HERE.
III. Contemporary issues:

A. Is it literal?

B. Theodicy

C. Where does evil come from if there is no fall?

D. Understanding psychology—”The Significance of sin for the psychologies”

E. Genetics/biology—how do we teach people to deal with a body that doesn’t cooperate? We do not believe in biological determinism (i.e. my body can make me sin)
How about researching some of this on your own? Just do a search on the sources of evil and all kinds of interesting information and research studies should pop up.
All of this yuckiness is setting us up for the beauty of the gospel and our wonderful, merciful Savior!