

A question. What was the genius of Pharisaism?

The answer.

4. Summary.

We must therefore help our children:

- To know the God of the Bible & fear and love Him deeply.
- The subtleties of their sinful hearts and so to beware of trusting in themselves.
- That repentance & faith are not the initiation rites to Christianity -they are the way to relate to God throughout our Christian lives because they are attitudes of the heart.

5. And when they Fall?

Gal. 6:1-5.

Notice further the key words in **v.1**:

- **Restore** –that’s the aim.
- **Gently** –with an awareness of own sin.
- **Caught** –not denying responsibility but acknowledging that sin is seductive precisely because our hearts are deceitful.

Aiming to Reach the Heart.

1. The Human Heart: A definition.

2. An Overview of the Heart in Scripture.

a.) The heart is the control centre of life.

- **1 Sam. 16:7.** It is the heart that reveals the true state of a man or woman.
- **Pr. 4:23.** A graphic word picture here -a well from which life overflows -even gushes out.
- **Mt. 5:8.** It is the pure in heart who are promised face-to-face access with Almighty God
- **Deut. 6:6.** The truth of God is to reside in the heart – only then it can be taught and passed on properly.
- Many emotions- hate (**Lev. 19:17**), despair (**Deut. 28:65**), sadness (**Neh. 2:2**), trust (**Ps. 28:7**) and anger (**Ps. 39:3**) come from the heart.
- It is through Christ’s dwelling in the heart by faith that the saints can comprehend the love of God (**Eph. 3:17**).

To sum up:

Since, in Scripture, the heart stands for the real person this explains why God looks there rather than at behaviour to see whether someone is faithful or not.

b) The heart is fallen.

- **Pr. 22:15a.** Another telling picture-folly [the sign of ignoring God] is interwoven in the heart.
- **Mk. 7:21.** Evils of speech & action seep out.
- **Lk. 6:45.** The mouth is the overflow pipe of the heart.

This condition of the heart is as it is from birth.

- **Ps. 58:3 + 51:5.**

So a child doesn't become a sinner when they sin. They sin because they are a sinner in the first place.

And the condition of the heart set against God is described as:

- 'hard' or 'stony' (**Ezek. 11:19**)
- 'fat' or 'uncircumcised' (**Deut.10:16; Jer. 9:26; Ezek. 44:7**).

"A change in behaviour that does not stem from a change in heart is not commendable; it is condemnable." (Tripp)

The point is every human being needs rescuing from their heart.

c) The heart needs to be changed.

Given all this we know that, above all else, what is most needed is a change in heart.

Ezek. 18:31.....

Jer. 31:33.....

d) Scripture emphasises appealing to the heart.

- **Pr. 23:17.** Don't let your heart envy sinners.
- **Pr. 23:19.** Keep your heart on the right path.
- **Pr. 23:26.** My son, give me your heart. The dad aims to win his son's heart to the right way

e) The Lord Jesus appealed to the Heart.

Mt. 21:28-46.

Tells a story. **vs. 28-32.**

v.31

He then tells another story.

v.45

So we must do the same. Cf. Heb. 4:12.

3. Two Worldly Mistakes.

Mistake 1: Christian Behaviourism.

Mistake 2: Christian determinism.

It's not a question of will they worship? But what will they worship?

Homo adorans vs. homo sapiens.

The Crucial Danger.