

# THE LEADER'S “INTEGRITY”

(THE GREAT REWARD OF KEEPING YOUR HEART CLEAN BEFORE GOD)

Proverbs 4:23



## “KEEP THY HEART”

- ◆ What Is The Heart?
- ◆ Why Guard Your Heart?
- ◆ Benefits of a Pure Heart

*“My son, **give me your heart**, and let thine eyes observe My ways.”*

(Proverbs 23:26)

**Bill Kirk**

# THE LEADER'S INTEGRITY

"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

## What is the Heart?

1. "The heart, in its moral significance in the Old Testament, includes the emotions, the reason and the will." (W.E. Vine)
2. The heart is our source of life; the seat of the whole inner man.
3. The heart includes our desires, affections, will, motives, feelings, intellect, aim, principles and emotions.
4. The heart in essence, is the inward spiritual nature of man.

## What does it mean to "keep your heart"?

The word "keep" in Proverbs 4:23 comes from the Hebrew word NATSAR, which means;

1. To **guard**
2. To **protect**
3. To **watch**
4. To **preserve**

## Why so important?

**"For out of it are the issues of life." (V. 23)**

1. The human heart has main arteries which carry blood from the heart to the rest of the entire body. The heart must not be injured or we suffer.
2. The fountains and wells of the East were watched over with special care. If the enemy could taint the well with poison, victory was automatic. The water was the life source and it all flowed from the well.
3. Our own heart is such a function, that if it be tainted, the streams that flow out will be tainted as well.
4. Our bodily parts do not pump blood to the heart, but the heart pumps blood to each part of our body. So, our hands do not cause us to sin; they simply act out what's in our heart. Everything we do (our hands) is an extension or manifestation of what we are (in our heart).

## From the Hebrew text it reads:

"More than all else, be closely guarded, watched and protected as something in a confined place. Keep watch over your heart, the place where God speaks to you, because from within it comes divine direction for your life."

## **In other words, it's clear and simple.**

1. If we fail to guard our **heart**, we will be unable to discern God's **will** when He speaks to us.
2. If we allow our heart to be cluttered with **weeds**, we will miss the **direction** God wants to give us.
3. If we fail in our heart (what we **are**) we will fail with our hands (what we **do**).

### **What are the benefits of a pure heart?**

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He will receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.” (Psalm 24:3-5)

#### **Benefit #1; we will see God.**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)

- ◆ The word “pure” comes from the Greek word KATHAROS which means:
  1. Without **mixture**
  2. Without **division**
  3. Without **defilement**

#### **What does it mean to “see God”?**

- ◆ Jesus is not speaking of eternity here.
- ◆ Jesus is referring to this present earthly journey right now.

#### **Jesus is saying:**

1. To the extent that our heart is undivided, to that extent we will experience the **leading** of the Lord.
2. Jesus can only reveal Himself commensurately to those who are walking in **singleness** of heart.
3. If our character is **impure** then our vision of Jesus is **impaired**.

#### **How is our heart purified?**

1. God deals with us about a sin (**conviction**) (John 16:8)
2. We respond and agree with God (**confession**) (Psalm 139:23)
3. The result is something glorious (**cleansing**) (I John 1:9)

#### **Benefit #2. We will be blessed**

‘Who shall ascend into the Hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His Holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He will receive the blessing from the Lord.’ (Psalm 24:3)

#### **Who receives God’s blessing?**

1. “Clean hands”, or practicing no iniquity.
2. “Pure heart”, or no deceit or pretending.
3. No vanity of soul, or not living for the temporary.
4. Nor sworn deceitfully, or, your statements and promises may be relied upon.

**“He shall receive the blessing from the Lord”  
(Or, the pure in heart)**

1. Will be the recipient of the **favor** of God.
2. Will be the recipient of Divine **approval**.
3. Will be treated as a **friend** of God.

### **How is it possible to live this way?**

“Likewise, reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God.” (Romans 6:11)

#### **The bad news is:**

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners.” (Romans 5:19)

1. Everyone is born under the **dominion** of sin!
2. Before salvation, the influence of sin **dominates** our lives!
3. Without God’s grace, we are hopelessly under the **servitude** of sin.

#### **The good news is:**

“For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.” (Romans 6:14)

#### **“Dead to sin” means:**

1. Sin no longer has the **power** to force you to be disobedient.
2. Sin now has no **authority** over any believer.
3. Sin’s power in your life and mine has been **broken**.

#### **“Reckon yourselves to be dead to sin” means:**

1. Believe Christ’s power has overcome sin’s power.
2. Believe Christ’s dominion is greater than sin’s dominion.
3. Believe Christ’s authority is greater than Satan’s authority.
4. Believe Christ’s Word will make you free.

- ◆ “The body of sin has been **destroyed**.” (Romans 6:6)
- ◆ “He that is dead is **freed** from sin.” (Romans 6:7)
- ◆ “Sin **shall not** have dominion over you.” (Romans 6:14)
- ◆ “Being then made **free from sin**.” (Romans 6:18)
- ◆ “Now being made **free from sin**.” (Romans 6:22)

**Never forget this: God forgives, but there are consequences to sin.**

**Example #1.** Adam and Eve were forgiven, but they still were never allowed back into the garden again.

**Example #2.** Moses was forgiven, but he was still not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of disobedience.

**Example #3.** David was forgiven, but he suffered dearly because of the consequences of sin.

# SEVEN SECRETS FROM INSIDE ACHAN'S TENT

"You cannot stand before your enemies **until you remove** the sin from among you." (Joshua 7:13)

"Neither will I be with you anymore, **until you destroy** the accursed from among you." (Joshua 7:12)

## Tent Secrets from Achan's Failure

### 1. Concealing Sin Does Not Erase Sin:

- ◆ Achan hid the stuff but couldn't hide his sin.

### 2. Sin Will Never Allow You To Suffer Alone:

- ◆ Achan's whole family suffered because of his sin.

### 3. The Consequences of Sin May Be Delayed But Never Ignored:

- ◆ There was a "season of time" that seemed to tell Achan, "you got away with it."

### 4. What is Committed in Secret Will Be Exposed in Public:

- ◆ Achan sinned alone, but the whole congregation would eventually know it.

### 5. The Sting of Sin is Sharper Than It's Pleasure:

- ◆ Achan's pain far out-weighted his pleasure.

### 6. To Delay in Repenting is to Hasten God's Anger:

- ◆ While Achan delayed and covered up, the wrath of God was kindled.

### 7. To Conceal Any Sin is to Lose God's Help in Battle:

- ◆ God emphatically declared, "I won't be with you anymore, **until** you address the sin that is among you." (V. 12)

### God help us to remember:

1. Little sins **never** stay little! (And)
2. Secret sins **never** stay secret!

### And help us to never forget:

That "**partial victory**" spells defeat:

"If you will not drive out the inhabitants of the land before you, then those which you let remain shall be pricks in your eyes, thorns in your sides and shall vex you in the land you dwell in."  
(Numbers 33:55)

AMEN!  
Bill Kirk