

Choose the Right Heart 1 Samuel 16:7, Deuteronomy 17:14-20

No heart: Saul

- **A failure to effectively pass on God's timeless truth and faithful living to the next generation.** 1 Samuel 8:1-3
"And it came about when Samuel was old that he appointed his sons judges over Israel...His sons, however, did not walk in his ways, but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice."
- **One that lives by his own standards rather than God's.** 1 Samuel 13:8-14
"Samuel said to Saul, 'You have acted foolishly; you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, for now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart'" (v.13-14)
- **One that rationalizes sin and blames other people for his faults.** 1 Samuel 15:1-23
"Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD, but rushed upon the spoil and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD?' Then Saul said to Samuel, 'I did obey the voice of the LORD, and went on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God at Gilgal.'" (v.19-21)
- **One that sorrows over the consequences of sin, not the sin itself.**
In his heart: He cares what people think about him when he sinned. 1 Samuel 15:24-31
"Then he said, 'I have sinned; but please honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and go back with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.'" (v.30)

Half a heart: Solomon

- **One that is grounded in God's truth by his father and richly blessed by God as king.**
1 Kings 2:1-4; 1 Kings 3:10-15; 1 Kings 4:29-34; 1 Kings 8:56-62; 1 Kings 9:3-9
"As David's time to die drew near, he charged Solomon his son, saying, 'I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. Keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways... Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore... 'Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes'" (1 Kings 2:1-3a, 4:29, 8:61)
 - James 3:1
- **One that begins to reflect weakness in faithful worship of God as an adult.** 1 Kings 3:1-5
"Now Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places."
- **One that does not finish well in life because he compromised his faith with the values of the world.**
In his heart: He does not care about his sin. 1 Kings 11:1-14
"Now King Solomon loved many foreign women ... from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the sons of Israel, 'You shall not associate with them, nor shall they associate with you, for they will surely turn your heart away after their gods.' Solomon held fast to these in love. He had seven hundred wives... For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been." (v.1-4)
 - False gods of Ashtoreth (goddess of sex) and Molech (child sacrifice) 1 Kings 11:33
 - 1 Corinthians 15:33, 1 Corinthians 5:6-13

Whole heart: David

- **One with a faithful heart to serve in small ways which leads to a faith-full response in larger challenges.** I Samuel 16:12-13; 17:16-19; 17:36-37. From food delivery service to defeating Goliath.
- **One that maintains a humble heart when experiencing prosperity.** I Samuel 18:14, 17-19
"David was prospering in all his ways for the LORD was with him... But David said to Saul, 'Who am I, and what is my life or my father's family in Israel, that I should be the king's son-in-law?'"
- **One with a dependent heart consistently seeking God's guidance in life.** I Sam 23:1--13; 30:7-10; 2 Sam 2:1-4; 5:18-25
"So David inquired of the LORD, saying, 'Shall I go and attack these Philistines'" (1 Samuel 23:2)
- **One with a tender heart sensitive to even the slightest wrong against another or God.** I Sam 24:1-7, 26:6-11; 2 Sam 24:10
"...Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul's robe secretly. It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. So he said to his men, 'Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed'" (1 Samuel 24:4-5)
- **One with a teachable heart willing to learn from the counsel of others.** I Samuel 25:26-35
"Then David said to Abigail, 'Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed... I have listened to you'" (v.32, 35)
- **One with an uninhibited joyful heart of worship before our Lord.** 2 Samuel 6:12-16
"And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet" (v.14-15)
- **One with a submissive heart when God says no to his request.** 2 Samuel 7:21
"For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness to let Your servant know."
- **One with a truly repentant heart when confessing his sin.** 2 Samuel 11, 12
 - In his heart: He cares what God thinks about his sin. Psalms 32 and 51
 - Psalm 51:10-12
"Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit."

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

- Which qualities of David's heart do you most aspire to develop in your own life?
- What warning do these passages offer you regarding your associations and potential compromise?
I Corinthians 5:6-13, 15:33
- What stands out to you in David's repentance from Psalm 51?
- What are some ways our spiritual heart conditions are revealed in our day to day life?
- Consider the list of next steps below. What is an intentional step you want to take in 2017 to grow and develop a whole and willing spiritual heart?

NEXT STEPS

- **Place your faith in Christ:** Get a new heart by trusting in Jesus as Savior and turning from your sins to follow Him as Lord.
- **Re-commit your heart to Christ:** Create in me a clean heart O God - Psalm 51
- **Be intentional about developing your spiritual heart:**
 - **Take part in these Calvary ministries to help you grow as a follower of Jesus:** LifeGroup, Discipleship/Mentoring, Alpha Course, Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Equipping Class, Spiritual Direction, Prayer, and Care Ministries. For more about these ministries, see details in Today's Current or visit calvarylife.org/grow
 - **Start a Bible reading plan to intentionally read the Bible in 2017.** Recommendations: YouVersion Bible: bible.com; 5 Day Reading Plan at bibleclassmaterial.com, Ligonier Bible Reading Plan: ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans
 - **Receive daily or weekly text message prayer prompters to develop a heart of prayer:** Sign up at echoprayer.com