

## Keeping your heart right in ministry.

Since I am the only one that is in ministry in this room you guys can just sit back and listen.

If that statement didn't sit right with you, that's good, If it didn't bother you then that's good too because you will learn something new.

**Prov 27:19** "As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man."

\*Going to talk about the heart, and some ways to keep it right, and look at some folks in the bible and try to see where they went wrong and or right.

**YOU GUYS, GOD HAS PUT YOU GUYS INTO SERVICE HERE ON EARTH!!**

The very fact that you are Christians means that you are in ministry.

How are you in the ministry by just being a Christian?

MINISTER: Serving one another. Support. Caring. How exciting is that, that God has made us Minister in that way. However, there is something that can get us wrong in our ways as ministers.

### **THE HEART**

Unfortunately we live in this flesh that really likes to get what it wants, and we have a heart that **Jeremiah 17:9** says is, "the heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it."

Imagine a cave in there is all your emotion and desire, and after your saved is where you find devotion to The messiah. We all know what happened to the heart in the garden through Adam . We are still supposed to love the Lord with all of it. The heart is amazing, It will eat what you feed it. If you feed it a little bit of Jealousy, or envy, or competitiveness, it will eat it up. If you are not properly guarding It you are going to knock it down . What are some things that can creep in that will try to make our hearts wrong?

Jealousy, envy

Have to be right in our hearts.

Lets look an example from the OT of how ill we can get in our hearts. GO TO 2 Chron 26

**2 Chronicles 26: 1-21.**

**Uzziah.** “As long as he sought the Lord, God prospered him.” Even though he was king. He know he needed to seek the King of kings.

Vs. 15. His name spread afar. I wonder what he did in that moment in time.

He became strong.

Vs. 16 Where did Uzziah go wrong. More than burning incense in the wrong spot. What was happening in his heart? Pride. Acting corruptly.

wanted to go into a place where God had not allowed him.

Became a lepor.

**Psalm 51: 10-13**

We usually Pray or sing vs’ 10-12.

Clean heart. My sink was glogged. It was gross.

Don’t let things sit in our hearts and get all rancid.

See how important it is for us in the ministry Look at vs 13.

That is great, but vs 13 shows us the heart of the psalmist and his goal.

I wish I worked here or there, I wish I new the bible like them.....

**Mark 10:35-45**

James and John.

We all want the place of glory at times. Whether its me wanting to be seen on Sundays, or in the work place wanting to be recognized for doing good, or we want to tell others how good we are. “Lord who have one of us sit at your right and the other at the left”

*How to keep a pure/right heart in ministry?*

**1) Humility**

**1 Peter 5:5-6** “Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble your self under mighty hand that He may exalt you at proper time.”

I am telling you guys, in the ministry pride will want to rear its ugly head.

Its so tempting. For me because I work here I mean God is blessing reality and its easy to think we are something, or that we have perfect theology, or that we must be doing something right. Or we have the best this or that or whatever. That is scary to me. Lets be quick to humble ourselves.

Even if you become successful in ministry or whatever Don't think it is a reason to be proud.

I mean Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death. WOW.

How's that. That is God in flesh humbling himself.

It is so good to be Humble.

Imagine if I rolled up all “dude you guys are stoked I am speaking, I mean, wow I am a good teacher, I am a better Christian, or whatever. NO good. Or if you guys went into your work places with the same attitude. That would be a bummer.

## **LOVE**

I am sure that you all aware that in ministry, we got to cultivate love for the brethren.

I mean as Christians we got to be loving one another. Where ever we find ourselves.

Don't think it all happens in a church building.

Scriptures

**Romans 12:10** “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, give preference to one another in honor.”

**1 Cor 8:1**.....”Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.”

bible says to let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth only that which is good for edification.

**2 Cor 8:24** “therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you.”

**Gal 5:13**...”through love serve one another.”

**Eph 4:2** “with humility and gentleness , with patience , showing tolerance for one another in love.”

**Eph 4:15** “But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ.”

\*\*Speaking the truth in love. How about that. Help Lord. Easy to give a quick “Pastor answer” Example: read your bible. Come on. Or this verse or that verse.

Good to give verses, because it’s the truth, but we have to speak it in love.

**Hebrews 13:1** “Let the love of the brethren continue.”

**1 Peter 1:22** “Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.”

**1 Peter 4** speaks of being fervent in love for one another because love covers a multitude of sin.

1 Cor 13:4-7 GO TO READ. INSERT NAME.

## **PRAY**

Pray for that person, or those people...

Example: BF.

Or your own self.

I mean what an honor. “OK Lord, I am in this place what do you want to do here, why am I in this context. Who do you want to share with, or care for, or pray for??? See that. That makes our hearts right.

## **THE WORD**

Consistently seek God in His word. No auto-pilot.

## **GRATEFUL HEART**

Maintaining a grateful heart helps in keeping a pure heart. Lord thank you for my job, thank you for these humans that I get to work with.

**Mat 5:8** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Pure: Clean, clear, innocent. See: perceive, behold, appearing, certainly see, witnessed, recognizing, seen.

Don't you want to see God in your ministry/ lives??? I sure do.

Remember Uzziah

What could he have done to prevent himself from getting to that ill prideful place??

Isn't it amazing how God doesn't really need us.... But chooses to use us.

He would be a dream in the hands of any army, city, state, country. Region. This guy was a stud. But God took him out. Doesn't make sense until you understand that In this life of ministry we need to keep a pure heart. How ugly was the leprosy????

We could probably say that uzziah was impure in his heart and all he saw was his greatness and fame. NO GOOD!!

I mean there are times when I get excited a little inside when someone is going through a hard time, or is struggling with sin, you know I can think in my heart, at least I am doing better than that. it's like a weird justifying thing. I hate it I truly do.

OR when you hear someone being talked highly of and you find their faults in your mind to make you look better, or you get jealous or all competitive. Like I want to know more about the bible than them.

I mean there are so many different personalities its crazy. And knowing that your roll is God ordained. A football does not have everybody playing wide receiver or every body a middle linebacker right. Times when you battle if anybody is seeing what you have done. Wow that's great like someone says good job, and there is your reward right. You want to be noticed. Times where you protect one another and defend and not spread strife.

I love these verses in Proverbs.

**Proverbs 6:16-19 READ IT**

So, wherever you find yourselves, cultivate humility, faithfulness in small things, and Love from a pure heartd.

**QUESTIONS**

