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A Matter of the Heart Share

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(A man asked Jesus) "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this...' "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:28-31

Second Principle: Maintain an honest heart.




-  "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment." Matthew 5:21-22 (NIV)
-  "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false." Psalm 24:3-4 (NIV)

Three steps to a cleaner heart:



1. Give my heart priority.


-  "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)
-  "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men." Matthew 15:8-9 (NIV)
-  "For the word of God... judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight." Hebrews 4:12-13

2. Take my heart seriously.

-  "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell." Matthew 5:30 (NIV)
-  "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" James 4:1 (NIV)
-  "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7, Job 36:13, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 18:35, Luke 6:45

3. Treat my heart practically.

-  "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit." Matthew 12:33 (NIV)
-  "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Ephesians 6:13-17 (NIV)

- Belt of truth = _____
1 Corinthians 10:13
- Breastplate of righteousness = _____
Philippians 3:9, 1 John 3:21
- Shoes of peace = _____
Philippians 4:7
- Shield of faith = _____
Psalm 91:4
- Helmet of salvation = _____
2 Corinthians 10:4-5
- Sword of the Spirit = _____
Hebrews 4:12
-  "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10 (NIV)

