

## WHAT SHARES YOUR HEART?

Proverbs 27:19 ... "As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man."

If you gather some clay and form it into a bowl, then bake the bowl, it will hold a liquid. As the creator of the bowl you can fill it with any liquid you desire. If your intention when making the bowl was for it to be used to hold milk, you will probably be very pleased with yourself when you fill the bowl and it does not leak. If you are away from home for the day and return to find that your pretty new bowl was used by your husband to hold gasoline, you may be quite disappointed. The bowl you made to hold milk for your children, is now contaminated and no longer suitable for that purpose.

God created your heart to contain joy, love, generosity, kindness, sympathy, and compassion. Since God created your heart, it really belongs to him. It is like the bowl you create and can decide how it will be used. If your husband fills your milk bowl with gasoline, it is no longer suitable for milk. If you fill your heart – God's heart – with anger, hate, stinginess, greed, rudeness, and unsympathetic or uncompassionate feelings towards hurting people, they replace the good things God intended for your heart. Joy and anger, love and hate, generosity and greed cannot occupy the same space, at the same time. And, anger, hate and other negative thoughts can actually contaminate your heart making it very difficult to cleanse.

Our title today asks what shares your heart. But, in reality, good and bad cannot share the same space. Either your heart is filled with goodness, or it is filled with something else. Some people think they can share the space with both good and bad, but that is not practical. God did not design your heart to be used in that manner, especially not to hold bad thoughts. Just as gasoline contaminates the clay milk bowl, evil will contaminate your heart, making it unfit for milk. Trying to fill this morning with joy, the heart that was full of hate last night, may not be entirely possible until a deep cleansing occurs. The joy you want to feel this morning is tainted by the hate from last night.

The solution is to stop using your heart for evil and use it as God designed it, for good. Today's verse reminds us that our hearts and actions reveal our inner persons. You may think you can hide the bad thoughts hiding in your heart, but eventually your words and actions will reveal those bad thoughts and that is the image of you that others will see. We all struggle with this and must pray for help from God to purge our hearts of unkindness and other negative things, and fill our hearts with things that please God. You will find that when you please God, you will also be pleased.

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