

Heartfelt Religion

Sometimes we are accused of not having a “heartfelt religion” because we do not shout “hallelujah” or raise our hands, we do not give “testimonials” about how we feel, and we do not have a “lively” worship service. We are accused of having a cold, informal religion without “feeling”.

But, there is more to the heart than emotions. The Bible heart consists of four chambers: 1) the intellect – the knowing / thinking chamber; 2) the emotions – the feeling chamber; 3) the conscience – the judgment chamber; and, 4) the will – the action chamber.

We certainly believe in a “heartfelt religion”. We believe that the one being converted must have his heart in it (Luke 8:15; Acts 2:47; Romans 6:17). We believe that a Christian must continue obeying from the heart after conversion (Acts 11:23).

We believe that Christians are to worship with their heart. They are to discern with their heart during the Lord’s supper (1 Corinthians 11:29), sing (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:15-16), and give from the heart (2 Corinthians 9:7). We believe that Christians are to be unified in heart as they work together in the local church (Acts 2:46; 4:32) and love one another with a pure heart fervently (1 Peter 1:22).

Do we believe in a “heartfelt religion”? Absolutely! - Chris Reeves

Sentence Sermons

- You can sugar-coat sin on the outside, but it will always be bitter on the inside.
- What your conscience says about you is usually more important than what your friends say about you.
- A smooth sea never made a successful sailor.
- You will never get ahead of the person you are trying to get even with.
- Be loving as brethren.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Seven Good Things Learned from the Devil

It may seem surprising to us, but there are actually some good things that we all can learn from the Devil. You see, the Devil is very good at what he does - getting people to be in a wrong relationship with God. He's good at what he does because he has several quality characteristics that help him to get his work done. Let's see what those qualities are.

Determination

The Devil has determination. He was determined to get Eve (Genesis 3), Job (Job 1-2), David (1 Chronicles 21:1), Joshua the High Priest (Zechariah 3:1-2), Peter (Luke 22:31), and even Jesus (Luke 4:1-13). He is determined to get married couples (1 Corinthians 7:5), widows (1 Timothy 5:15), and New Testament Christians (Rev. 2:10). We need to be just as determined to serve the Lord faithfully (1 Corinthians 15:58). We need to be fervent in spirit (Romans 12:11) and we need to be zealous of good works (Titus 2:14).

Efficiency

The Devil is efficient and successful in undoing the good of God's word (Luke 8:12; Acts 13:10; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:18). The Devil

works efficiently because he knows his time is short (Revelation 12:12). We too need to be efficient in our use of time and effort in spreading the gospel (Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5).

Commitment

The Devil has commitment to his cause. He severely binds (Luke 13:16), completely murders (John 8:44), totally oppresses and conquers (Acts 10:38), and completely devours people (1 Peter 5:8). We need to have the same commitment and give every part of our life over to the Lord (Matthew 22:37). We need to be completely committed to be ruled and conquered by the Lord (Acts 26:18).

Focus

The Devil is focused. He focuses on getting to the heart of man - the seat and root of all life. He did this with Judas (Luke 22:31; John 6:70; 13:2,27) and with Ananias (Acts 5:3). We also need to focus on our heart (Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 4:27).

Wisdom

The Devil uses his wits and wisdom. He is cunning and crafty (Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 11:3,14-15). We also need to be "wise as serpents..." (Matthew 10:16).

We need to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:11) and we need to be discerning (Philippians 1:9-10).

United

The Devil is united. He does not work against himself (Matthew 12:26). We need similar unity to work together and not be divided against ourselves (Philippians 2:2; 4:3).

Belief

The Devil and his demons truly believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and that Jesus is Lord (Matthew 8:28-29; James 2:19). They believe that Jesus will be their future judge and tormentor. We need to have the same belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We need to believe and tremble (Romans 10:9-10). We need to believe that Jesus will be our future judge and tormentor (Matthew 25:41, 46).

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all had the Devil's, persistent determination, surprising efficiency, total commitment, single-minded focus, clever wisdom, complete unity, and honest belief. Maybe then we could better resist him and he would flee us as James promises (James 4:7). - *Chris Reeves*