



# Proverbs: Understanding The Heart

# Proverbs: Understanding The Heart - Message

Proverbs provides a rich, extensive biblical psychology of man

# Proverbs: “Heart”

Used almost 100 times!—all but 5 are the Heb. word (*leb*)

1. Thinking processes, where the intellect, the will, planning, decision making and learning intersect (19:21; 15:28; 27:19)
2. Moral, spiritual functions: accept truth and trust God (3:5)
3. Worldview, guiding principles, aspirations, that guide the person to do what they do (20:5)
4. We can't know what others feel unless they tell us (14:10)
5. Is wide open to God (15:11)
6. Is complex, masking emotions, multiple emotions (14:13)

# **The Heart: Our Two-fold Problem**

## **I. We are born with foolishness in our hearts (22:15)**

**Propensity to be lazy, disrespectful, balk at God's ways (ultimate authority), stubborn, disobedient**

## **II. "Lacking heart" = has not learned how to think, reflect and ponder using God's wisdom (10:13; 9:4, 16)**

**Examples: (6:32; 7:7; 11:12; 12:11; 15:21; 17:16; 17:18; 24:30)**

# How sin operates in the heart

- 1) Sin begins by enticing the person's desires (6:25; 7:25)
- 2) Sin can harden the heart in pride, refusing to submit to God (16:5; 28:14; Rom 1:21-25; Josh 11)
- 3) A hardened heart pridefully pursues sin (21:4; 19:3; 18:12)
- 4) A hardened heart spurns reproof (5:12)
- 5) A sinful heart becomes a storehouse of perversity (6:14, 18; 7:10; 11:20; 17:20; 12:8; 17:20; 24:2)
- 6) Sin prompts the heart to spew forth destructive speech (12:23; 18:2; 23:33; 26:23)
- 7) Sin prompts the heart to disguise hateful speech (26:24-25)

# How does God harden a sinner's heart?

When God hardens sinners' hearts, "their hardening of heart was really God giving them reason to follow their own foolish inclinations"

(David Firth, *The Message of Joshua*, p. 137)

**God removes His restraining grace that kept them from sinning however they want**

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