

## “Transforming Hearts through Jesus Christ”

The overall, stated purpose of St. Michael’s Church is to “Transform hearts through Jesus Christ”

Our “heart” is the inner most aspect of our being and is basically the same as our “spirit”

**We are composed of spirit/heart, soul/mind and body**

- Deuteronomy 6:5 = You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- Mark 12:30 = And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 = Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ  
→ In these passages, scripture uses “spirit”/”heart” and “soul”/”mind” interchangeably because they are intimately connected, interfaced and integrated

**While in Scripture “spirit” and “soul” are often used interchangeably, they are to be distinguished**

- Hebrews 4:12 = For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart
- 1 Corinthians 14:14-16 = For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup> Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying?

**While often it is said that the “soul” is composed of “mind, emotions, and will,” the heart/spirit is the actual location of choice**

- Hebrews 4:12 = For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart
- Genesis 6:5 = The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- Genesis 8:21 = And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

**The heart/spirit is “corrupted” by sin because of the “fall” of Adam**

- Ecclesiastes 9:3 = This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man [literally “sons of Adam”] are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.
- Romans 5:19 = For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners

- **Mark 7:20-23** = And Jesus said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. <sup>21</sup> **For from within, out of the heart of man,** come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, <sup>22</sup> coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup> **All these evil things come from within,** and they defile a person."

### **The "heart" is filled with lies and deceit**

- **Jeremiah 17:9-10** = **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;** who can understand it? <sup>10</sup> "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

### **The heart/spirit can be "broken" and "crushed"**

- **Psalm 34:18** = The LORD is near to **the brokenhearted** and saves **the crushed in spirit.**  
- **Psalm 147:3** = He heals the **brokenhearted** and binds up their wounds.

### **Because of this, we create corrupt and sinful "strategies," "protections," and ways of personal relationship with God and people, as well as ourselves**

- This can any kind of manipulation, ego affirmation/exaltation, lie, hated, or destructive behavior of relationships  
- We can "present" to others a "constructed personality," a "persona" that people interact with but never get to the "heart/spirit" of the real person within

### **It is God's purpose, desire, and will for us to be transformed in our hearts through Jesus Christ" and we are transformed by**

#### **(1) The power of the Holy Spirit**

- **Isaiah 61:1** = **The Spirit of the Lord GOD** is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to **bind up the brokenhearted,** to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
- **2 Corinthians 3:18** = And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed** into the same image from one degree of glory to another. **For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

#### **(2) The truth of God which is revealed in the word of God**

- **Psalm 51:6** = Behold, you delight **in truth in the inward being,** and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.  
- **John 8:31-32** = So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."  
- **John 17:17** = Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

#### **(3) The Body/Church of Christ living in the love of God**

- **Ephesians 4:16** = from whom **the whole body,** joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, **makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.**

→ The purpose of God to transform our hearts through Jesus Christ to become like our Lord Jesus Christ will only take place through the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit according to the truth of the word of God through the body of Christ as we all "work properly"