

Retuning Your Kingdom Heart

Devotional and meditation exercise

“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” -Ezekiel 36:26–27

Love for God:

I. You shall have no other gods before me

- A.** Diagnostic questions: What other gods exist in my heart pantheon? Is the true God just another member of that group?
 - 1.** Example: “Favorite things” song (Is God just “one of these?”)
- B.** Prescription: Acts 4:24: *They prayed, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...”*

II. You shall not make for yourself a carved image...

- A.** Diagnostic questions: What are the fantasies of my heart, of my imagination? Does my “dream life” subordinate itself to God or to my own images?
 - 1.** Example: Extreme Life Makeover (Are my dreams paramount?)
- B.** Prescription: Psalm 16:11: *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

III. You shall not take the Lord’s name in vain...

- A.** Diagnostic questions: How do I talk about God? Is my speech about him lovely, or do I grumble and complain about him?
 - 1.** Example: the Christian Eeyore (“Woe is me! God is out for me.”)
- B.** Prescription: Psalm 8:1: *O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

IV. Remember the sabbath day...keep it holy

- A.** Diagnostic questions: Is God the Lord of my calendar? Does my “time budget” have enough room for this hour of worship? Beyond?
 - 1.** Example: “Yes man” (2008) (Do my “yeses” say “no” to worship?)
- B.** Prescription: Psalm 122:1: *I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”*

Love for neighbor:

V. Honor your father and mother

- A.** Diagnostic questions: What is my attitude toward authority? Toward familial authorities? Church authorities? Governing authorities?
 - 1.** Example: “I am a rock, I am an island” (I am above civil/ecclesial society)
- B.** Prescription: Jeremiah 27:5: *“It is I who by my great power and outstretched arm have made the earth, with the men and animals that are on the earth, and I give it to whomever it seems right to me.”*

VI. Thou shalt not murder...

- A. Diagnostic questions: How short is my fuse lately? Do I have any open grudges? If I do, why? Am I willing to forgive? Am I willing to be forgiven?
 - 1. Example: “Do you do well to be angry?” (As Jonah I withhold reconciling)
- B. Prescription: John 14:27: *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.*

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery...

- A. Diagnostic questions: Have I taken stock of my thought life recently? My eye life? My ear life? Does sensual or sexual fantasy entice my heart? If so, why? When? What? How?
 - 1. Example: Esau (Hebrews 12:16) appetite>birthright (“heck with it!”)
- B. Prescription: 1 Corinthians 6:11: *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

VIII. Thou shalt not steal...

- A. Diagnostic questions: Am I honest with my neighbor (e.g., spouse, friends, coworkers, children, etc.)? Where are the “corners” in my life I like to cut? Am I open-handed with those in need, or stingy? Why or why not?
 - 1. Example: the rich fool (Luke 12:13–21) (My stuff will save me)
- B. Prescription: 1 Peter 1:4: *[God gives us] an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you...*

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor...

- A. Diagnostic questions: Do I speak well of my neighbor? Am I quick to believe gossip or rumor? Why or why not?
 - 1. Example: that irresistible gossip (I indulge hearing such things)
- B. Prescription: 1 John 1:5: *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

X. Thou shalt not covet your neighbor...their family or their stuff

- A. Diagnostic questions: Do I want someone else’s life, spouse, toys, or family? Why or why not? Do I always “not have enough” as him or her?
 - 1. Example: “Keeping up with the Jones’s” (their grass is always greener)
- B. Prescription: Revelation 21:23: *And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.*