



Series: Stewardship

Sunday, March 27, 2011

Pastor Joseph Ardayfio

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PART V: A HEART OF FLESH

📖 **SCRIPTURE:** EZEKIEL 36:24-26; PSALMS 37:1-4

key theme: Stewardship of our heart requires that our heart is transformed by God into a heart of flesh, while we actively delight in God and guard against corruption seeping into our heart.

- 1) **God cares about what is in our heart because a corrupted heart will produce corrupt desires + affections.**
 - a. The Scriptures tell us that the sinful nature produces a stony heart from birth. This corrupted heart is stubborn and unresponsive to God.
 - b. With a heart of stone, we are easily deceived by our seeming success and happiness but not realizing that, left alone, our heart will degrade towards catastrophic failure. The accumulation of things or positions is a fleeting barometer of the true condition of our heart.
 - c. We shouldn't confuse a functioning heart with a healthy heart, both physically and spiritually.
- 2) **God promise us that when we make him the Lord of our lives, He transforms our heart of stone into a heart of flesh.**
 - a. A soft heart is pliable to the things of God.
 - b. Even with a new heart, we must guard what goes into our heart by delighting in the things of God.
- 3) **How do we actively delight in God?**
 - a. Our greatest delight should be "to know, and love, and live to God, to please him and to be pleased in him."
 - b. When we give our heart to things above God, we still long for something else, yet our hearts become crowded with the affections of the past.
 - c. We must guard against the things that come to take away our delight in God. Anything that satisfies us more than God will take away from us delighting in God.
 - d. As we continually delight in God, we will see that he fulfills all of the desires of our renewed, sanctified soul.

Mars Hill Fellowship Church is a new gathering of believers in the Metro Boston area. We come from a variety of cultures, ages, educational backgrounds, and family histories, but we share the common testimony of being transformed by God's everlasting love. We are living witnesses that the gospel is real and has the power to redeem all people. We strive to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

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