

A Christmas Heart

Home for the Holidays – Part 4

New Life Church – 12.23.18

Pastor Jim Von Wald

Luke 4:43 (ESV) *Jesus said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God...I was sent for this purpose."*

I. A crummy way to live.

Genesis 8:21 (AMP) *...the Lord said to Himself ... the imagination (the strong desire) of man's heart is evil and wicked from his youth...*

A. Religion = External Pressure.

B. Vegas = Sin City.

Matthew 23:27-28 (NLT) *"What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness."*

Matthew 5:19 (ESV) *Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom...*

II. A Christmas heart transplant

Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV) *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

Ezekiel 36:26-27 (MSG) *I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed.²⁷ I'll put my Spirit in you and make it possible for you to do what I tell you and live by my commands.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (TLB) *When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!*

A. Trust the surgeon.

Romans 12:2 (TLB) *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how his ways will really satisfy you.*

B. Keep all follow-up appointments.

Philippians 2:13 (TLB) *For God is at work within you, helping you want to obey him, and then helping you do what he wants.*

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