

Genesis 4:7 - If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

1. What changes have you experienced in your life?
2. How does change typically begin in your life?
3. GIGO – Garbage In / Garbage Out – How have you seen this principle play out in your life?
4. What is the greatest influencer of you becoming more Christ-like in your life?

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

5. How does knowing that you are God's handiwork make you feel?
6. How do you feel knowing that you were created to do good works?

Romans 7:15-19 - I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

7. The Apostle Paul writes about his struggle with sin in Romans 7:15-19. Do you have the same struggles?
8. Why do you think that it is so hard to do the good that we want to do?
9. Why do you think that it is so hard to avoid the sin that we want to avoid?
10. Do you think that these two things are connected?

Matthew 15:1-2, 10-11, 15-20 - Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked, ² "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

¹⁰ Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. ¹¹ What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

¹⁵ Peter said, "Explain the parable to us." ¹⁶ "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. ¹⁷ "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? ¹⁸ But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

11. What makes a person 'unclean' according to this teaching of Jesus?

Proverbs 4:23 - Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

12. How do we guard our hearts?

Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Romans 12:2 - ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

13. What do these verses say about our thoughts and minds?

14. Why does what we listen to, watch, read, and think about matter?

15. What do you need to consider stopping to protect what you allow into your mind & heart?

16. What do you need to start doing to bring Godly and good things into your heart and mind?

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

17. GIGO – Godly In / Godly Out – How have you seen this principle play out in your life?

18. Would those around you see a new creation as a result of you being a Christian?