

Introduction:

- In this series we're going to study a few great sins of the heart that work directly against living a life of _____.
- Hard-heartedness
- Hypocrisy
- People-pleasing
- Pride
- Covetousness / Greed
- Pleasing the flesh / Lust
- What does it mean to have a hard heart?

1. Hard-heartedness is when your heart doesn't _____ the spiritual impressions that the Word should make, and when your heart doesn't _____ God's commands,

Acts 7.51–53 *“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and **did not keep it.**”*

A. A holy life includes three ingredients:

- _____ God, heaven, and holiness over all worldly things
- _____ them above anything else
- _____ them in the overall bent of our lives

B. A life of repentance includes three ingredients:

- _____ and turning from ourselves and sin
- _____ them with great displeasure
- _____ to obedience to God

2. God-centered instructions for conquering hard-heartedness.

A. Remember that God is your _____ to rule you and judge you, and it's your duty and delight to obey Him and please Him.

Ezek 36.27 *And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

- We are to love the Lord, yet His love for us, and our love for Him will cause us to _____ ourselves to Him.

John 14.15, 21, 23, 24 *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments...Whoever has my commandments and **keeps** them, he it is who **loves** me...Jesus answered him, “If anyone **loves me**, he will **keep my word**, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not **love me** does not **keep my words**.”*

John 15.10, 14 *If you **keep my commandments**, you will abide in my **love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love...You are my friends if you **do what I command you**.*

1 John 5.3 *For **this is the love** of God, that we **keep his commandments**. And his commandments are not burdensome.*

1 John 2.4–6, 29 *Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever **keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected**. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked...If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who **practices righteousness** has been born of him.*

- When we know the greatness of God's love for us, we will obey Him _____.
- When we know the greatness of God's authority over us, we will realize that our submission to Him is our _____.
- When respect for God's authority is at work in us it gives us the power to be victorious over the _____ to disobey Him.

Matt 4.4 But he answered, “It is written,
 “Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””

Matt 4.7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘**You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.**’”

Matt 4.10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,
 “**You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.**”

B. Remember that God’s unquestionable and absolute title over you and the entire world is that He is _____.

Phil 2.10b–11 ...every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

C. Remember that God is perfectly _____ to rule you and the rest of the world.

Rom 11.33–34, 36 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
 How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
 “For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”
 For from him and through him and to him **are all things**. To him be glory forever. Amen.

D. Remember how unqualified and unable you are to even rule _____.

Psa 81.11–12 “But my people did not listen to my voice;
 Israel would not submit to me.
 12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
 to follow their own counsels.

Rom 1.18, 22, 24, 26, 28 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...Claiming to be wise, they became fools, Therefore God gave them up in **the lusts of their hearts** to impurity...God gave them up to **dishonorable passions**...God gave them up to **a debased mind** to do what ought not to be done.

E. Remember that God is not _____ whether you obey His Word or not.

F. Consider that submission and obedience to the Lord is a _____ in itself.

G. Remember the _____ effects that result from disobedience to the Lord.

H. Remember that there are enough _____ in Heaven to make obedience appealing to you and to make sin abhorrent to you.

Matt 25.21 *'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'*

Matt 25.34 *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'*

Matt 25.46 *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Conclusion:

- The first steps to conquering a hard heart are to:
 - Always remember _____ you are; that you are not your own but belong to God.
 - Always remember _____ you're going; that you are preparing for everlasting rewards and must appear before the judgment seat of Christ.