



Guard Your Heart!

Exodus 19: 16-19, 20:1-21 Prov 4:13-27 Matt 22:34-40

March 18, 2018

Pastor Dave Bolte

Repentance means that you **turn** from your sin, **confess** it to God, and know that you are **forgiven** because of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Ten Commandments call you to repent.

That is their *chief purpose* in your life.

They expose your sin, your rebellion against God, and your indifference towards other people; the Ten Commandments call you to repent!

Remember your confirmation days when the Ten Commandments were referred to as a “**mirror**”? When you look into the Ten Commandments you **see your own sin** – like looking into a mirror - - and it leads you to repentance.

The Ten Commandments show us that we cannot live holy and godly lives on our own. We all fall short of these Commandments in our thoughts, words, and deeds. These Ten Commandments are like a hammer that crush our pride and self-righteousness leaving us broken and humble before God. **We need a Savior to rescue us.**

The good news is that God sent that Savior for us in His Son Jesus Christ. The Son of God came into the world and He took all Ten Commandments upon Himself and He lived a perfect and holy life *in our place and on our behalf*. And then He gathered up all of our failures and all of our sins upon Himself --- *every single time we have broken these Commandments in thought, word or deed was placed on*

Jesus --- and He carried them to cross in Jerusalem where He suffered, died, and was buried with our sin. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; He is the Lamb of God who takes *your* sin away.

Through faith in Christ, His **perfect obedience** to the Ten Commandments is credited to you, and it becomes your very own. Jesus' **sacrificial death** pays for your sins. **You are declared holy, righteous and forgiven by grace alone because of Jesus' life and death!**

One of the gifts of salvation is that the Holy Spirit now lives and dwells within you so that you can live a holy and godly life. The Holy Spirit takes you back to the Ten Commandments and they now become a “guide” to help us live a holy life. The Ten Commandments teach us how to love God and how to love other people. The Ten Commandments teach us what a holy and godly life looks like. The Ten Commandments teach us God's Will for our daily lives. **In the Ten Commandments we learn the VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

- † We learn to value **God Himself** in the First commandment as we have no other gods before him.
- † We learn to value God's **Name** and to obey His **Word**, and the importance of **worshiping Him** weekly.
- † We learn to value **authority** and **life** and **marriage** in the Commandments;
- † We learn to value **possessions** and **reputation** and **contentment** in the Commandments

The Ten Commandments teach us the **VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD** and how we can live holy and godly lives

loving God and loving our neighbors. When you learn the **VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD** in the Ten Commandments, then you are **guarding your heart** so that you will not fall into sin.

My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. **Above all else, GUARD YOUR HEART, for it is the wellspring of life.** PROVERBS 4:20-23

Guard your heart because it is the wellspring of your life.

When you learn the Ten Commandments and obey them, then you are guarding your heart.

Your **heart** is the *center of your being*; it is the *core of who you are*. It is what shapes your world view and motivates you in daily living. Your heart is your “new self” – the part of you that loves God and desires to live a holy and godly life. No wonder we are told to *“Guard your heart because it’s the wellspring of your life.”*

As a believer in Christ, the Holy Spirit lives in your **heart**. He is at work in the *center of your being* and the *core of who you are*. He is at work with the **Ten Commandments**, teaching you the **VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.

- † The Holy Spirit **prompts** you to do good works;
- † The Holy Spirit **drives** you to make godly decisions;
- † The Holy Spirit **motivates** you to *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”*
- † The Holy Spirit **pushes** you to *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”*

The Holy Spirit is at work in the *center of your being*; and the *core of who you are*. He is at work with the **Ten Commandments**, teaching you the **VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD**.

Today as we wrap up this series on the Ten Commandments, be sure that you have memorized them. One of the handouts for today is a list of the commandments and their meanings from Luther's Small Catechism. (Review the Ten Commandments)

When you learn the **VALUES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD** in the Ten Commandments, then you are **guarding your heart** so that you will not fall into sin.

Guarding your heart means that you are **STANDING GUARD** against anything that might interrupt the Holy Spirit from working within you.

Guarding your heart means that you are **VERY CAREFUL about who or what influences you**

Guarding your heart means that you **FLEE FROM SIN as if your very life depended on it**

Guarding your heart means that you intentionally **IMMERSE YOURSELF in God's Holy Word** so that you are ever striving to be a Biblically literate, doctrinally sound, mission minded, and passionately engaged disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to [THE TEN COMMANDMENTS]. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. Above all else, GUARD YOUR HEART, for it is the wellspring of life.
PROVERBS 4:20-23 adapted specifically to the Ten Commandments