

GPS Class
“Shepherding Children’s Hearts”
Part Two Introduction - Foundations for Biblical Parenting

Introduction: Getting to the Heart of Behavior

- The Scripture teaches that the heart is the control center for life. A person’s life is a reflection of his heart. Proverbs 4:23 states it like this: “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well-spring of life.”
- The Heart Determines Behavior
- Mark 7:2 states: “...from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.” These evils in action and speech come from within – from the heart.
- What your children say and do is a reflection of what is in their hearts.

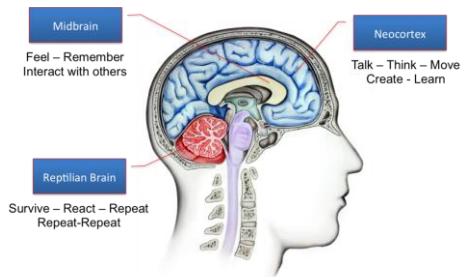
The Heart Determines Behavior

- Luke 6:45 “The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”
- These passages are instructive for the task of parenting. They teach that behavior is not the basic issue. The basic issue is always what is going on in the heart. Remember, the heart is the control center of life.
- Deuteronomy 6:4-9 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **might**. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
 - Key Hebrew Words
 - Heart – lebab (inner being, inclination, moral character)
 - Soul – nepes (living breathing creature, the desire and drive to stay alive, purpose within)
 - Might – meod (physical or emotional strength or power)
- Matthew 22:36-40 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind**. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
 - Key Greek Words
 - Heart - kardia (center of life physically, emotionally and spiritually)

- Soul- psuche (breathing person, comparing to H. nepes [differing from pneuma - wind, eternal spirit or zoe – life] whole life being)
- Mind – dianoia (way of thinking, meaning, understanding)
- Mark 12:29-31 Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul** and with all your **mind** and with all your **strength**.’”
 - Key Greek Words (one additional word)
 - Heart – kardia
 - Soul – psuche
 - Mind – dianoia
 - Strength – ischus (ability, might, power- physical, emotional, and spiritual)

Receiving and Protecting Children

- Mat. 18:5-6 “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”
- Mat. 19:13-15 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” And he laid his hands on them and went away.



Receiving (Engaging) and Protecting Children’s Hearts

- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12
 - Physical
 - Intellectual
 - Emotional
 - Spiritual