

## Article: The Human Heart

The human heart is a common symbol in modern Australia. It generally stands for love, most often in the romantic sense. But did you know that the main points of the Biblical message can be shown in passages that talk about the human heart?

In the Bible, the heart has nothing to do with romance. It is the seat of thought, intention, and will. The Lord says, *“For the mouth speaks what runs over from the heart”* (Matthew 12:34). We should love God with all our heart (Matthew 22:37), that is, with all our thoughts, intentions, and purposes.

But since the fall into sin, the human heart is opposed to God. God said, *“For what human beings think in their hearts is evil from their youth”* (Genesis 8:21). The Lord said, *“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies and slanders”* (Matthew 15:19). Every sinful word or deed was first a sinful thought. We sin more often in thought than in any other way.

It is sad for a person to realise that his heart is sinful, but it is necessary to know the problem to be prepared for the solution, the forgiveness of sins. The psalmist wrote: *“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and crushed heart, O God, You will not despise”* (Psalm 51:17).

The message about sin breaks the heart. But Christ heals the broken heart with the message of forgiveness that He has earned for us by His perfect sacrifice on the cross in our place. Faith in Christ, the God-Man, is trust that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. This faith is given to people through the Word of forgiveness. The Apostle Paul wrote: *“The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.” This is the Word of faith, which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”* (Romans 10:8-9).

Believing in the resurrection of Christ means believing that by raising Jesus from the dead, God showed that He has accepted Christ’s sacrifice and forgiven our sins. With this Word and the faith it produces, the Word of God says that Christ dwells in the believer’s heart (Ephesians 3:17).

This Word and faith give the believer great joy. David was inspired to write, *“Nevertheless, I trust Your mercy. Let my heart shout for joy over Your salvation!”* (Psalm 13:5). Jeremiah had been told that he was to face severe persecution for preaching God’s Word, but he still said, *“Your Words have become my joy and the delight of my heart”* (Jeremiah 15:16).

It may be nice to talk about the heart in a romantic way. But it is much better for all of us to think about what God says in the Bible about our hearts. Why not look up Matthew 6:19-21 and see what Jesus was talking about when He said, *“For your heart will also be where your treasure is”*?

