

## **If you are going to Correct the Heart, you must understand the Heart . . .**

“Unlike others in His culture, Jesus frequently emphasized that the location of human struggle and the target for human change was not found in religious ritual, but it was centered within the human heart – the seat of human thinking, feeling, desiring, and doing” (Lelek, *Biblical Counseling*, 7).

“You are always also dealing with the thing that shapes, directs, and controls the behavior of your children: the heart. . . And there is no more important heart issue for every child ever born than the issue of authority” (Tripp, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles*, 113)

“In His Word, God has revealed to you the mysteries of human desire and motivation so that you can then reveal those mysteries to your children who are lost, ignorant, and deceived . . . The more your children understand why they do what they do, the easier it will be for them to admit their wrongs and seek your forgiveness and God’s. Remember, because everything they do comes out of their hearts, everything they do reveals their hearts. Helping your children see what their behavior reveals about their hearts is gospel work” (Tripp, *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles*, 118).

“The Scripture teaches that the heart is the control center for life . . . The heart is a well from which all the issues of life gush forth . . . The heart determines behavior. What you say and do expresses the orientation of your heart” (Tripp, *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*, 3).

“You must learn to work from the behavior you see, back to the heart, exposing heart issues for your children” (Tripp, *Shepherding a Child’s Heart*, 6)

Proverbs 4:23 – “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Proverbs 22:15 – “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.”

Proverbs 29:15 – “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick.”

Mark 7:21 – “For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Luke 6:45 – “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

**Paul Tripp's 5 Questions for Correction** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfI4rJ6PKyg>):

What was going on? (Recall)

What were you thinking/feeling as it was happening? (Recognize)

What did you do in response? (Response)

Why did you do it? (Reason)

What was the result? (Result)

### **Other Important Issues to Understand to Correct the Heart**

Parents are a work in progress too: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7PzVUHyNC0>

What is sin? <https://www.gotquestions.org/definition-sin.html>

Who is responsible for the discipleship of your kids?

<https://www.timothypauljones.com/family-ministry-who-is-responsible-for-discipling-your-children/>

How should Christians discipline their kids? <https://www.gotquestions.org/disciplining-children.html>

### **Recommended Resources for Correcting the Heart of Your Child:**

*Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles*, Paul Tripp

*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, Ted Tripp

*Withhold Not Correction*, Bruce Ray

*The Disciple-Making Parent*, Chap Bettis

*Get Outta My Face: How to Reach Angry, Unmotivated Teens*, Rick Horne

*Parenting with Words of Grace: Building Relationships with Your Children One Conversation at a Time*, William Smith

*Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ*, John Piper

*Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, Paul Tripp