

DIGDEEPER

February 14, 2016

How Not to Live by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 4:17-21 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

When God draws us to himself in salvation, he gives us a new heart. But carelessness and disobedience to God can callous our new heart so that we live as though we were still dead in sin. Paul urges the Ephesians to not harden their hearts in selfishness and live as though they were not Christians. If we know Jesus, it means that our lives will necessarily look different from those who don't know him.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

How do you know the difference in right and wrong?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- What are some of the most selfish sins you regularly see in our culture and in our community? Which sins of selfishness are most present in your own life?
- Ephesians 4 has been all about unity within the church, and the chapter finishes with this same theme. How does this section 4:17-21 relate to the larger idea of unity in the church?
- What are some patterns or habits in your life that might contribute to a hard or calloused heart? In what ways does your life look like the life of an unbeliever?
- What or who has God provided to help us regularly examine our hearts and keep them from becoming calloused?

GO DEEPER

- Our hearts were never designed to be followed, but to be led. Without the supernatural work of God, they are—and will remain—dead. Jon Bloom explains why [our hearts must submit to God](#).
- We talked a lot about the heart in this week's sermon. Sinclair Ferguson offers a helpful [catechism on the heart](#) to summarize what the Bible has to say on the subject. This piece is taken from his larger work [A Heart for God](#).
- Confessing his own sin, John Piper explains [the terror of a heart that is selfish](#) and blind to the beauty of God.
- If you find yourself looking at your own heart and realizing it has become calloused, [pray along with Scotty Smith](#) as he asks Jesus to shepherd his heart.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Dedicate a significant amount of time to examining your own heart before God in prayer. Are you growing in your love for God and his people? Is your life increasingly governed by God's Word? Are you clinging to any sin that you need to repent from? Is your hope in God or in something else?

Ask God to soften your heart that you might love him more.