



**Week of June 27, 2021**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. As a child, what are some areas where you learned to modify your behavior to conform in certain settings? How long did that last before you slipped up? Till you stopped trying?
2. Paul said, "You can't hide what's inside." What are some ways that "what's inside" slips out, in spite of our best efforts to hide it?
3. Read Matthew 15:17-19. Describe how this was confusing and offended the Pharisees. Why would they have been offended?
4. Read Jeremiah 17:9 in your Bible and contrast with a common cultural phrase, "he/she has a good heart"? Which of these is true? If you were honest, which would describe you?
5. Now that you understand this is a heart issue, not a behavior modification issue, how does that affect what you pray for? How does it change your thinking about the role of the Holy Spirit in transforming your heart?
6. What is God teaching you about that state of your heart this week? How can this group pray for you and help you?

## **Moving Forward**

Nobody can stain your heart but yourself. You are fully responsible for what you let get in there. So, acknowledge what is in your heart. Then realize your Heavenly Father wants to give you a clean heart! Claim it and look to the Holy Spirit to renew and renovate your heart.

## **Matthew 15:10-12, 17-19**

After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to them, “Hear and understand. <sup>11</sup>“It is not what enters into the mouth that defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man.”

<sup>12</sup>Then the disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?”

<sup>17</sup>“Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? <sup>18</sup>“But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. <sup>19</sup>“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

## **Proverbs 4:23**

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.