

06.09.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “What does it mean for us to invite Jesus into our 'HEART'?”

Scripture Readings: [Ephesians 3:16-17a](#); [Revelation 3:14-21](#); [Proverbs 4](#); [John 12:37-50](#); [Psalm 51](#); [Luke 6:43-45](#); [Colossians 3:1-17](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

Pastor Doug began a new summer sermon series this past Sunday for our community of faith entitled “MY HEART CHRIST’S HOME.” During the next few months, Pastor Doug is going to be talking about the importance of accepting Jesus’ invitation to come into our hearts and allowing Jesus to be the Lord of our life.

But, when we talk about “inviting Jesus into our heart”, what does this mean? If you had to explain this concept of “inviting Jesus into our heart” to a child or to an adult who has limited or no experience with the Christian faith, what would you say to them? How would you explain it? If you wanted to invite Jesus into your heart, what would you be doing?

The Bible Project does an excellent job of explaining biblical concepts like this in a clear, easy, and understandable way. Before reading any further, I encourage you to take a moment to watch this short Bible Project Video by clicking on this link:

[“HEART”](#)

When the biblical writers and the Bible talk about our “heart”, it’s referring to the center of who we are. The heart is our source of life. The heart in the Bible, as we learned in the video, is the place where...

- “...we think and make sense of the world.” [Example = “I had a gut (or heart) feeling that things were going to turn out the way they did.”]
- “...we feel emotions (distress, fear, joy).” [Example = “When she broke up with me, it broke my heart.”]
- “...add it’s where we make choices motivated by our desires.” [Example = “Put your heart and soul into it!”]

The heart, for the biblical writers, was “...the center of all human existence.” Our heart is the ‘heart’ of who we are as a person. 😊 Our heart is like the CPU on a computer. It’s like the bridge on a ship. Our heart is the place that controls and shapes who we are, what we say and do, where we want to go, and what we long for and long to become.

So...when we say we are “inviting Jesus into our hearts”, what we are doing is inviting Jesus to take over and control this place in our lives. We are inviting Jesus to control and shape who we are, what we say and do, and what we desire as a person. When we ‘open the door’ and invite Jesus into our heart, we are inviting his teaching, instruction, and actions to guide, shape, and form our thoughts, our emotions, our actions, and the choices we make each day. When we RSVP to Jesus’ invitation and open the door of our heart to Jesus we are saying “Jesus, take control of my whole life.”

Friends let's be clear. This invitation from Jesus is no ordinary invitation. In fact, as we explore this invitation all summer long, we will come to see that it is a life-altering, life-changing invitation. We will also realize that if, and when, we RSVP to Jesus' invitation to come into our hearts, we will not be the same.

Prayer:

God, you are knocking at the door of our hearts both individually and communally. You invite us to open the door and let you in. Enable us to accept your invitation and welcome you in. In Jesus name. AMEN.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Sometime in the next few days, watch the [Bible Project "HEART" video](#) together as a household or with a friend. After watching it together, have each person talk about what they heard and what it means for their lives.

Songs for Today:

[I Give You My Heart](#)

[Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer](#)

[Create in Me a Clean Heart](#)

[Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart](#)

[Clean Heart](#)