

A WELL-ORDERED HEART



Word:

Proverbs 4:23

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

Colossians 3:17

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

The Right Kind of Love

Many of us desire a perfectly balanced, manageable life, but God wants us to pursue a much higher goal. God wants to craft in each of us a well-ordered heart. A well-ordered heart seeks to follow Jesus and do what he would do. It loves the right thing to the right degree in the right way with the right kind of love. The pursuit of a well-ordered heart is worthy of our devotion, is achievable even in the most desperate situations, and produces good far beyond our sphere of influence.

A well-ordered heart is a transformed heart. If our ordinary, fallen hearts are to be transformed into hearts that love the right thing to the right degree in the right way with the right kind of love, we need a plan of action. That heart-changing plan of action consists of focusing the events of our daily lives around knowing Jesus and learning how to be more like him. It can be summarized by Paul’s admonition in Colossians 3:17 to do everything in the name of Jesus.

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Discussion:

1. Instead of telling his followers to have a balanced life, what did Jesus say is the quest worthy of our devotion? (See Matthew 6:33; 10:37–39.)
2. How seriously do you want to pursue life in the kingdom of God? Is pursuing God's kingdom the goal in which you devoted your life? Why or why not?
3. A well-ordered heart leads us to love the right thing to the right degree in the right way with the right kind of love. What are some common pitfalls that hinders us from doing this? In which areas do you find this difficult to do?