

“To the Point” series

Some verses and short passages in God’s Word pack a lot of punch. These are places where the biblical writers direct our attention to an important truth in an emphatic, straightforward way.

And while brief, these passages are rich and deep. They deserve our close attention as they communicate important truths in their immediate context, and reinforce truths that we see throughout the rest of Scripture as well.

LIFEgroup questions (6-10 questions)

1. Do you agree with the statement that opened the sermon, “All of us have areas in our lives that need to change”? What was your initial reaction to that statement?
2. Is it easy for you to acknowledge areas in your life that need to change? Why or why not?
3. Describe a time in your life when you intentionally set about working on an area that needed to change. What did you do? What were the results?
4. How does Proverbs 4:23 (and its surrounding context, Proverbs 4:20-27) help us understand the centrality of the heart for godly living? Is this notion of “living from the inside out” new to you?
5. As we seek to live godly lives, what happens if we fail to consider the corruption of the human heart due to sin?
6. Explain what Tim meant by have our hearts “conquered” by Jesus. Why is it so important to have “new hearts” if we’re to truly live changed lives?
7. Tim suggested that “guarding your heart” involves (1) working to keep bad influences out and (2) knowing when to let the right things in. Why is it important to keep both halves of this statement in mind? What are one or two ways you should “guard your heart” practically?
8. How does the new heart that Jesus offers give us hope for changed lives?

9. Knowing that “changed lives come from changed hearts,” what role do the spiritual disciplines (Bible study, prayer, church attendance, etc.) play in helping us live changed lives?
10. What else stood out to you from this sermon? Discuss any further questions, observations, applications, comments, etc.
11. This week, challenge yourself to memorize Proverbs 4:23: “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”