

The Motives Of Men's Hearts

1 Corinthians 4:2-5

2. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

3. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself.

4. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me.

5. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the MOTIVES of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

1. Is it possible that we are motivated by SELFISH AMBITION?

Philippians 2:3 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves...

A. W. TOZER - "Many a solo is sung to show off; many a sermon is preached as an exhibition of talent; many a church is founded as a slap to some other church. Even missionary activity may become competitive, and soul-winning may degenerate into a sort of brush-salesman project to satisfy the flesh."

Galatians 5:19-21

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, SELFISH AMBITION, dissensions, factions

21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this WILL NOT inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:22-26

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

James 3:13-15

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

2. Is it possible that we are motivated by GREED/COVETOUSNESS?

1 Timothy 6:3-10

3. If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching,

4. he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions

5. and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

6. But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.

8. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

9. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10. For the love of money (Greed for things, Covetousness) is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

1 Thessalonians 2:3-5

3. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or IMPURE MOTIVES, nor are we trying to trick you.

4. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.
5. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness.

3. Is it possible that we are motivated by SOMETHING OTHER THAN LOVE?

1Cor. 13:3 - "If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing."

A. W. TOZER - "It is not WHAT a man does that determines whether his work is sacred or secular, it is WHY he does it!"

Proverbs 16:2 - All a man's ways seem innocent to him, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

1 Corinthians 4:5b - He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

Hebrews 4:12-13 - For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight EVERYTHING is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

James 4:3 - "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures!"

Heb. 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.