

The Essence of Confession

Create in me a clean heart, O God. King David wrote these words in a moment when he needed a new start. As we enter a new year, what are some things we can do, that are better than any resolution, to create a clean heart in us?



INTRODUCTION

Pastor David opens his message by asking us how, with God's help, we can make this new year different than last year. He quotes pastor and author Oswald J. Smith who tells us that, "The heart of the human problem, is the problem of the human heart."

STARTER QUESTION

Our hearts matter to God! How amazing is that? How does knowing that our hearts matter to God, encourage you to want to renew your heart in this new year?

INTO THE WORD

What does God's Word say about your heart in Matthew 5:19?

Proverbs 4:23 ESV reads, "Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." What does this sentence mean to you? How can we have a clean heart? What are the results of having a pure heart as written in Matthew 5:8?

Read Ezekiel 36:25-27. What does God tell us that He will do for us? Specifically, what will He do with our hearts?

APPLICATION

What does the phrase "follow your heart" mean to you? How might you explain this concept to a child or young person? How and why can this phrase be dangerous?

What benefits could we realize in modern society, in our home life, or in the workplace if more people "followed a clean and pure heart?"

The essence of confession addresses iniquity, sin and transgression. Explain what each word means to you. What does true confession include or not include? Can you describe brokenness and how it can be used by God in your life?

PRAYER

Dear gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for your love, your grace, and for giving us your Word to live by. As we begin this new year, please help us to make a fresh start, to desire a clean heart, and to think about each and everything we do or say. We know that you care about all of our hearts. We also know that no matter what we are facing, if our hearts are right with you, we will be okay. Thank you, Lord! Amen

