

Church of Christ

...Heart to Heart ...

People have chest pains and are concerned about their heart. We diet, exercise, and follow doctor's orders to avoid heart problems. What seems to escape notice is our spiritual heart can be sick, yet it gets ignored.

How can we know if we have spiritual heart disease? God gives us insight to six major signs of spiritual heart problems. **(1) "Let love be without hypocrisy."** (Rom. 12:9) Some people fake love. They act as if they care, but in their heart they harbor ill feelings toward others, never concerning themselves with how the Lord views them. Others say they forgive, but they don't forget. What if Jesus did that? **(2) Abhor what is evil, cling to what is good."** (Rom. 12:9) Evil will always lead one into being unloving. When we don't flee from evil and evil desires, our heart is attaching to something God isn't a part of. **(3) "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."** (Rom. 12:10) We should be dedicated, loving our brethren. We should consider that things shouldn't go our way, but should consider what is best for others. There should be some kind affection toward those in Jesus. Is Jesus devoted to those in Christ? How devoted are you? **(4) "Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit serving the Lord."** (Rom. 12:11) We should be people that are persistent in our tasks rather than being lazy and doing things half-heartedly. "Fervent" means being "hot" or "glowing." We should be diligent in our lives, glowing, striving to move forward rather than just moving along with no real desire, or out of duty. That means taking advantage of opportunities that help us grow. **(5) "Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer."** (Rom. 12:12) These are attitudes of the heart. Christ is always our hope, even in struggles. Those who persevere in their trials always remain firm to the Lord in the face of those obstacles. They lean on God, telling God how they feel, looking to Him for their strength with a proper attitude. **(6) "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."** (Rom. 12:14) To curse one is to attack another with one's tongue. It is verbal abuse. It also involves gossip, slander and speaking evil of others.

To not love, abhor evil and cling to good, to be not devoted to your brethren, to be lazy in your spirit, taking wrong attitudes in difficulties or cursing those who hurt you are all signs of spiritual heart disease. If left unchecked, one will die spiritually and that will last to eternity. How's your heart? Think about it!!!

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