

Pastor Ron Case

9/21/25

“Heart Tricks”

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

I Am Better Than You

Genesis 3:10-12 – ¹⁰“And (*Adam*) said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.’ ¹¹(*God*) said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ ¹²The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.’”

Killer Contempt

Genesis 4:8-9 – ⁸“Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, ‘Where is Abel your brother?’ He said, ‘I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?’”

Luke 18:9-14 – ⁹“He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

John 7:48-49 – ⁴⁸Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? ⁴⁹But this crowd that does not know the law is accursed.”

Corruptible Church Competition

Mark 9:33-34 – ³³“And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you discussing on the way?’ ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.”

Luke 22:24 – “A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.”

Antidotes to this Insanity

(1) Value Others

Philippians 2:3 – “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

(2) Value God’s Appraisal of Yourself

John 12:42-43 – ⁴²“Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn’t admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. ⁴³For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.” (NLT)

(3) Avoid Preeminence Perversion

3 John 9 – “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.” (KJV)