

A sepia-toned photograph of a cluttered antique shop. The shop is filled with various items, including birdhouses, lanterns, metalware, and decorative objects. The items are arranged on shelves, tables, and hanging from the ceiling. The overall atmosphere is one of a well-stocked, somewhat chaotic antique store. The text "Messy Life" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

# Messy Life

## Proverbs 4:23

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (NLT)



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Keep vigilant watch over your heart; *that's* where life starts  
(The Message)



Your heart is the common ground where God and you meet. It's the place where forgiveness is cultivated, where faith first takes root, where love grows, where hope blossoms, where mercy reaches fruition. Your heart is God's greatest gift to you. It's also your most significant responsibility, for precious gifts can be lost, ruined, or squandered.

Eugene Peterson  
The Message Study Notes, pg. 937



# The problem of the heart



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Only fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”  
(Psa. 14:1; 53:1 NLT)



## The problem of the heart

Trust in the LORD with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.

(Prov. 3:5-6 NLT)



# The problem self-gratification

Heart Strong – Avoiding Live's Mess-Makers!



## The problem self-gratification

“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be ...

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

(Matthew 6:19-21; 24 NLT)

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## The problem self-gratification

<sup>15</sup> He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.

(2 Corinthians 5:15 NLT)

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# The problem self-sabotage

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## The problem self-sabotage

<sup>12</sup> If you think you are standing strong, be careful, for you, too, may fall into the same sin. <sup>13</sup> But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.

(1 Corinthians 10:12-13 NLT)

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## The problem self-worth

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## The problem self-worth

<sup>3</sup> When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers-- the moon and the stars you have set in place-- <sup>4</sup> what are mortals that you should think of us, mere humans that you should care for us? <sup>5</sup> For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor.

(Psalm 8:3-5 NLT)

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## The problem self-worth

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

(Ephesians 2:10 NLT)

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# The problem of woundedness

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## The problem of woundedness

Then Jesus said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

(Matthew 11:28-30 NLT)

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And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup> Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me— everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9 NLT



We must be careful what we bury in our heart. To bury something does not mean it is dead. It may simply mean we have buried something alive that will devour and destroy us from within.

Maxie Dunnam  
Let Me Say That Again

