

Quotes for “The Heart of the Matter”

A. A. Hodge:

“The ‘Confession Faith,’ ch. 4, § 2, ‘Larger Catechism,’ Q. 17, and ‘Shorter Catechism,’ Q. 10, teach the following points—1st. God created man in his own image. 2nd. A reasonable and immortal soul endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, and placed in dominion over the creatures. 3rd. Having God’s law written on his heart and power to fulfill it, and yet under possibility of transgressing, being left to the freedom of his own will, which was subject to change.

The likeness of man to God respected—1st. The kind of his nature; man was created like God a free, rational, personal Spirit. 2nd. He was created like God as to the perfection of his nature; in knowledge, Col. 3:10; and righteousness and true holiness, Eph. 4:24; and 3rd. In his dominion over nature. Gen. 1:28.”

“It hence follows that the original righteousness and holiness in which Adam was created consisted in the perfect conformity of all the moral dispositions and affections of his will (in Bible language, heart) to the law of God—of which his unclouded and faithful conscience was the organ.

As a consequence there was no schism in man’s nature. The will, moving freely in conformity to the lights of reason and of conscience, held in harmonious subjection all the lower principles of body and soul. In perfect equilibrium a perfect soul dwelt in a perfect body.”

Dr. Daniel Wallace:

“It is true that the context is clearly about what God has done for us, rather than about what we have done for God. Thus, contextual considerations seem to indicate . . . ‘the love which comes from God has been poured out within our hearts.’ However, the fact that this love has been poured out within us (as opposed to simply upon or toward us) suggests that such love is the source for a reciprocated love . . . The idea, then, would be: ‘The love that comes from God and that produces our love for God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.’”

Dr. John MacArthur:

“It is that longing to be satisfied with something which in and of itself maybe a good thing. In fact, most all lust is simply God’s good gift twisted and perverted. God, for example, gives us the blessing of sleep and some people lust after it until they become lazy, indolent sluggards. God has given us the benefit of clothing to cover out bodies and keep us warm and for some people it becomes an absolutely consuming lust. Where they are so enamored with the satisfaction they get by having people see what they wear that it literally controls their budget and their life. It is wonderful that God has given us the gift of shelter from the elements, the wonderful reality of privacy and the ability to conduct our affairs in some kind of covert place with those we love, and yet for some people they want to be pampered and cared for in a manner that is far beyond human necessity and becomes a fetish. There is nothing wrong with thirst,

God has given us that as a desire, which leads us to do things beneficial to our body, but some people drink themselves into the gutter. There is nothing wrong with food, but some people become gluttonous. There is nothing wrong with our needs supplied, but it's easy to pervert your needs and get way beyond what they really are. Even sex is given by God as a wonderful glorious gift, but when perverted and sought for beyond the will of God becomes the baited hook to trap the person who is driven by lust for those things."

"Our fallenness has as a part of its entity, desire for evil. Would you notice that it doesn't say, he's drawn away of lust but of his own lust. Very emphatic. His own, emphasizes that we are not talking about some generic term only that everyone possess commonly with everyone else in just the same way, but each individual, *hekostas in the Greek*, each individual has his own particular bent of lust, which is really the thing that lures him to the bait. And is it not true that one person's passion is another person's repulsion? Sure it is. I see people who are literally, by their lust, driven into homosexuality. That absolutely repulses me. You can bait that hook all you want in front of me, and you'll see me go the other direction. We all have a certain I wouldn't want to use the word character, but we all have certain characteristics of our lust which make some baited traps and baited hooks more alluring to us than others. And that's why he is individualizing this by saying his own lust. Now this refers to the inclination of the soul to enjoy or acquire something."