

Does sin originate in the mind or in the heart?

The believer is exhorted to love God with all of his heart, soul and mind (Mt 22:37). From the mind we: perceive (Lk 9:47), remember (Tt 3:1), reason (Ro 7:23, 25), feel (2 Sa 17:8), desire (Neh 4:6), intend (Ge 6:5) and purpose (2 Co 1:15, 17).¹

Similarly the heart is the seat of: concern (Jer 31:20), desire (Ro 10:1), doubt (Mk 11:23), fear (Is 35:4), meditation (Ps 19:14), obedience (Ro 6:17), purpose (2 Co 9:7), reason (Mark 2:8) and thought (Mt 9:4).²

Humanity is not good (Ps 14:3, Ro 3:12). Man, born in sin (Ps 51:5), must be born again (Jn 3:7). He must receive (Col 2:6) a new nature from the Lord (2 Co 5:17).

Man can reason falsely (Col 2:4) and misuse wisdom from his heart (Ro 1:21); so, he should seek the truth which is found in God's word (Ps 119:142, 151, 160). Using and obeying the word keeps one from sin (Ps 119:11).

Whereas the fool is: destructive (Pr 10:14), despicable (Pr 15:20) and disappointing (Pr 19:13) before God;³ the Christ follower pleases God (Ps 147:10-11, Jn 8:29, Ro 8:8-9, He 11:5-6, 13:16), walks in fellowship with him (Eph 5:1-33, 8-9, Col 1:9-10, 1 Thess 4:1-5) and manifests his wisdom (Eph 3:10).

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 418). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Ibid, pg. 279.

³ Ibid, pg. 237.