

# **TRUE DISCIPLES CULTIVATE A TENDER HEART**

Our goal in this series is to become more and more like Jesus.

God uses His Word to restore us.

Psalms 107:20-He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

**I want to talk to you about the disastrous effect of having a hardened heart.**

A hardened heart is when you allow yourself to become cynical and jaded.

There is a real battle to keep our hearts sensitive and real for the Lord.

Have you ever gotten a little cynical in your faith?

It's hard not to let your heart get callused.

**The callusing of a heart is the first stage of a hardened heart.**

A callus is a bodily reaction to an injury.

A callus is a hard, thickened area of skin that develops usually from friction or irritation over time.

A callous starts as protection from a deeper wound, but a callus will not help you when it gets on your heart.

When a callus gets on your heart you begin to put up a resistance.

When we suffer pain, rejection, lies or hurt we put up a protective wall.

We all have a protective, built in shield that we put up when our hearts are wounded.

**True disciples cultivate and maintain a tender heart.**

We need to develop heart that is more like Jesus.

Jesus suffered rejection.

John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Disciples turned their backs on him.

John 6:63 “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

64 “But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.

65 And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

Yet Jesus maintained a tender heart.

Luke 13:34 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!

As we become true disciples we must

cultivate and maintain a tender heart.

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its

shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Isaiah is revealing to us the heart of Jesus.

The heart of Jesus was clearly revealed at the cross.

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” And they divided His garments and cast lots.

How is your heart condition?  
How is your inner man?

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

A tender heart is positioned for favor and the mercy of God.

A hardened heart leads to destruction.

The last couple years have been a perfect storm to put calluses on our hearts.

It's the perfect storm for the enemy to attack our hearts.

**Every destroyed relationship begins with a hardened heart.**

Pay attention to the inner most being because out of your heart will flow the issues of life.

If your not paying attention the condition of your heart it will harden.

It doesn't happen overnight; it's subtle.

Do you remember what was it like when you first fell in love with Jesus?

Jesus has not gone anywhere he is right there where it all started.

Return to your first love.

Be intentional.

### **Cultivate and maintain a tender heart.**

Colossians 3:12-13 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 “bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”

I want the heart of Jesus to be renewed in you.

We have to love everybody because it's a commandment.



Ephesians 4 shows us the ultimate end of a hard heart.

Ephesians 4:17-18 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, 18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

When we get a hardened heart we start operating in hopeless confusion.

Revelation 2:2-5 “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; 3 “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. 4 “Nevertheless I

have this against you, that you have left your first love. 5 “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Revelation 3:2-3 “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. 3 “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

16 “So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

This is your heart check up.