GETTING TO THE HEART OF THE HEART

WHEATON, Ill.—There is no shortage of idioms about the heart (“a heart of gold” and “cross my heart,” to name a few). With all of the common language centered on the heart, it might seem that the meaning of the word is understood throughout time and across cultures. But defining the heart isn’t as simple as one would think. And for Christians, the modern understanding of the word is very different than what the Bible has to say about it.

Craig Troxel’s newest book, With All Your Heart: Orienting Your Mind, Desires, and Will toward Christ (Crossway, February 2020), is written to help Christians understand the complexities of the heart and what that means for how they understand sin and renewal. “When Christ was asked, ‘What is the greatest commandment?’ his answer showed where true spirituality begins: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart’ (Matt. 22:37–40; Mark 12:28–33; Luke 10:25–28; cf. Deut. 6:5). If this is as important as he says it is—and it is beyond what we could ever imagine—then we need clarity about what he meant, so that we will have greater clarity in how to obey,” writes Troxel.

Structuring the book around concepts found in Puritan theology, Troxel divides the book into three sections that describe the “trinity of spiritual functions” of the heart: the mind, the desires, and the will. Troxel expands this idea by noting that “the heart includes what we know (our knowledge, thoughts, intentions, ideas, meditation, memory, imagination), what we love (what we want, seek, feel, yearn for), and what we choose (whether we will resist or submit, whether we will be weak or strong, whether we will say yes or no).”

Troxel goes one step further to then connect the threefold complexity of the heart to the work of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King. These three offices of Christ’s ministry “complement the complex operations of our heart without compromising its unified integrity,” reminding believers that there is no sin in the heart that Christ cannot redeem.

With All Your Heart will help readers comprehend the heart as the source of all their thoughts, fears, words, and actions. Through the book, they will discover principles and practices for orienting their hearts to truly love and obey God with all that they are.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Founded in 1938, Crossway is a not-for-profit global Christian publishing ministry that publishes gospel-centered, Bible-centered content, to honor our Savior and serve his Church. Crossway seeks to help people understand the all-encompassing implications of the gospel and the truth of God’s Word—for all of life, for all eternity, and for the glory of God alone. Crossway is the global publisher of the ESV® (English Standard Version®) Bible, more than 1,000 Christian books, and an extensive list of gospel literature. For additional information visit crossway.org.

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