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# Church in Campbell Weekly News

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In 7:15 the Lord said to the crowd, “There is nothing outside of a man which entering into him can defile him, but the things coming out of a man are the things which defile a man.” When He had entered into a house, His disciples questioned Him concerning this saying. Then the Lord went on to say, “Are you also in the same manner without understanding? Do you not perceive that everything from outside entering into a man cannot defile him, because it does not enter into his heart, but into the stomach, and goes out into the drain, making all foods clean?” (vv. 18-19). In verse 19 the Lord refers to the heart. In verse 20 He continues, “That which goes out of a man, that defiles a man.” Following this, the Lord gives a list of some of the evil things that proceed out of man’s heart (vv. 21-22).

## A constitution of evils

In 7:21 and 22 the Lord says, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil reasonings, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, a wicked eye, blasphemy, arrogance, foolishness.” Here the Lord designates that part of man from which evil things proceed — the heart. Man’s heart is rotten, corrupt. The heart of fallen man is corrupt to such an extent that it is incurable (Jer. 17:9). Therefore, we should not think that we are good in our heart. Perhaps you are good outwardly, but there is nothing good in your heart. For this reason, Paul could confess that nothing good dwelt within him (Rom. 7:18).

In this chapter the depth of man’s condition is exposed by the Slave-Savior. In our preaching of the gospel we also should touch the condition of man’s heart. However, much of today’s gospel preaching fails to do this.

We need to see from the Lord’s word in chapter seven of the Gospel of Mark what our inward condition really is. The actual condition of our heart is that it is a constitution of evils. Because our heart is corrupt, we should never think that it is good. To believe that our heart is good is to be deceived and to believe a lie. Anyone who thinks that he has a good heart is deceived. Our heart is corrupt, and we should not have any trust in it.

In verse 21 the Lord Jesus uses the word “proceed.” According to this verse, evil reasonings, fornications, thefts, and murders proceed out of the heart of men. The word

“proceed” implies continuation. Not only do evil things come out of man’s heart; they continually proceed out from his heart, coming forth one after another.

## Evil reasonings

The first item listed by the Slave-Savior as proceeding out of man’s heart is evil reasonings. Reasonings, of course, come from the mind. The New Testament tells us that the mind of fallen man is reprobate, disapproved (Rom. 1:28). Because man’s mind is reprobate, nothing that comes out of it can be accepted by God or justified by Him. Rather, the reasonings of the fallen mind of man are condemned and rejected by God. Because our fallen mind is reprobate, our reasonings are evil, no matter how good they may seem to be.

## Fornications and thefts

After evil reasonings, the Lord lists fornications. We need to be impressed with the fact that the Lord did not speak of these things in a careless way. On the contrary, knowing man’s inward situation, He speaks in a careful way of what proceeds out of man’s heart. First come the evil reasonings and then fornications. This indicates that the evil reasonings are related to fornication.

The third item in verse 21 is “thefts.” Some may claim that they have never stolen anything. In fact, everyone has committed theft in one way or other. Actually, fornication itself is a kind of theft, for it is a matter of obtaining something improperly. To steal is to take something illegally. In principle, fornication is in this category. Fornication is a matter of following an illegal course, a course not ordained by God. Anything that is taken illegally is a matter not only of theft but also in the principle of fornication.

Although we are saved ones, children of God, our fallen nature, including our old heart, is still with us. In particular, the two evil things — fornication and theft — are crouching behind us, waiting for an opportunity to ruin us. Throughout the centuries, many Christians, including pastors and ministers, have fallen into the snare of fornication. Even many of those who love the Lord Jesus have been caught in this way. Many have disregarded the fact that their heart is evil. As a result, they failed to keep a proper distance from the opposite sex and fell into fornication.

In a real sense, the church life is a social life. Males and females often have contact with one another. Because of the danger of fornication, we need to keep ourselves at a proper distance from the opposite sex.

I wish to emphasize the fact that even though we have been regenerated, according to the teaching of the New Testament, our old nature remains with us. We should never forget this fact. Until our body has been redeemed, transfigured, our fallen nature will be with us. No matter how holy you may be, you need to realize that you still have your fallen nature. This is the reason I advise the saints not to be in a room alone with a member of the opposite sex.

I appreciate and respect this country very much. Nevertheless, I am bothered by the fact that males and females are too free in their contact with one another. Many women are not aware of the danger of being defiled. If they had such a consciousness, they would keep themselves at a proper distance from the opposite sex.

As we have indicated, in our preaching of the gospel we need to touch the condition of man's heart. In particular, we need to expose the fact that in principle all fallen people are fornicators and thieves. When I was preaching the gospel in China, I often used to say, "You ladies and gentlemen appear to be very nice. But suppose I could take an x-ray picture of what you are inside. If I did this, you would not have the boldness to remain here. You know that you are evil inside and unclean. Perhaps even as you are listening to this message, you are reasoning concerning evil things. You have the appearance of a lady or gentleman, but in your inward condition you are filthy." It is a fact that evil reasonings proceed out of man's heart, and these reasonings are related to fornication and theft.

It is very significant that in chapter seven of Mark the Slave-Savior in His gospel service touches the inward condition of man. We should remember that the Lord's word in 7:21-23 is a word uttered not to the crowd but to His intimate followers. It seems that here the Lord is saying, "Peter, John, James — you all need to realize that out from your hearts proceed evil reasonings, fornications, and thefts."

### Murders and adulteries

The next item mentioned by the Lord as proceeding out of man's heart is murder. Many murders are committed for the sake of fornication or theft. Fornication and theft often issue in murder.

Next, the Lord goes on to speak of adulteries. There is a difference between adultery and fornication. If a married person commits sin with another married person, that is adultery. But if an unmarried person commits sin with another unmarried one, that is fornication. Here the Lord speaks concerning both fornication and adultery.

(Excerpts from Life- Studies of Mark Message #21)

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### Burdens for Church Prayer

- 2026 Targets, # of baptized:22; # of prayer meeting attendance:35; average Lord's Day and small group attendance:10% increase
- Spread the kingdom of God by preaching the gospel on the WVC campus and in the community, Bible distribution
- Multiply the number of small groups for the increase and building up of the Body of Christ
- Perfect young working saints with shepherding families as containers for the next generation.
- Practice PSRP, BNPB, and vital small groups.
- Blending in the Body, by participating in conferences and trainings
- Establish and strengthen the church services, including children, YP, ushering, etc.
- Establish a prayer life individually and corporately
- Pursuing the truth and growth in life to live in the reality of the kingdom.

### Announcements

- Life-study of Mark MSG 21, 22
- HWMR: 2025 Thanksgiving Conference, Week 4
- 3/31 (Tue) 7:45pm, Prayer meeting at meeting hall
- 4/3-5 NorCal Spring YP conference held at FSCC
- 4/10-11 FSCC. NorCal Chinese speaking saints blending conference.
- 4/19 – Spring BBQ at Sanborn park, 10:00am-2:00pm
- 5/1-3. FSCC 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Conference. \$50/person.
- 6/29-7/4 Semiannual Training registration by 5/1
- 7/19-24. NorCal Summer School of Truth.
- 7/29-8/2 FSCC. North America Chinese speaking perfecting training, west coast session.
- 9/4-6 NorCal Labor Day Conference held at Burlingame Hyatt
- Financial Giving:  
PayPal/Zelle: churchincampbell@gmail.com  
Venmo @Churchin-Campbell  
Church in Campbell bookroom account  
(PayPal/Zelle  
churchincampbellbooks@gmail.com