

HEART SURGERY

PART 1 — *Elder Zach Volker - July 19, 2026*

I. The Spiritual Heart of Man

Read: Proverbs 4:20-23

II. Case Study: The Israelites

Read: Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 4:5-8; Acts 7:51-53

III. The Universal Heart Condition

Read: Ephesians 4:17-18; Romans 8:1-8; Jeremiah 17:9

IV. Where Did This Come From?

Read: Romans 5:12-14, 18-21; John 3:16

V. The True Purpose of the Law

Read: Galatians 3:19-22

VI. The Severity of Our Condition

Read: Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18-22

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **The Heart Issue:** The heart isn't the physical organ but "the place of desire, intention, and thought." What things in your life are shaping your heart most right now — good or bad — and are you actually guarding it, or just assuming it'll be fine?
2. **Hostility Over Neutrality:** Romans 8 reveals that the mind set on the flesh is not neutral, but actively hostile toward God. How does remembering your own past hostility and rebellion help you handle rejection, anger, or indifference from unbelievers today?
3. **Spiritual Deadness:** Ephesians 2 states that we were not just spiritually sick, but entirely dead in our trespasses. How does fully grasping that a dead person cannot save themselves transform your patience and prayer life for friends or family members who seem entirely blind to the Gospel?
4. **Adam's representation:** Being held responsible for something Adam did before you were born can feel unfair. Sit with that for a second — what does it stir up in you? And how does it change once you consider that Christ represents you the very same way?
5. **The "Good Person" Illusion:** The analogy of baking a cake with poison describes how even though our hearts are tainted by sin, we can still view ourselves as a "good person". Before your heart was changed, did you try to convince yourself you weren't that bad? If so, how?
6. **Delivering the Bad News First:** In our everyday relationships, what does it look like to faithfully and gently help others see the "bad news" of their brokenness so they can recognize their desperate need for the ultimate cure? Do you think you do a good job conveying this?
7. **Heart Discovery:** Have you let yourself sit long enough in how desperate your own condition really was, or do you tend to rush past it to get to grace? What might shift in your gratitude if you didn't rush?