

Gentle and lowly

Introduction and Chapter 1-His very heart

- 1 On page 13 Ortlund asks, "What ignites within Christ most immediately as he moves toward sinners and sufferers?" If you had not read the introduction how would you have answered this question?
- 2 What is most at the core of Jesus' heart?
What does it mean that Jesus is gentle?

What does it mean that Jesus is lowly?
- 3 How does Christ's endless kindness astound and sustain you in the toil of the Christian life?
- 4 Thomas Goodwin says, "We are apt to think that he, being so holy, is therefore of a severe and sour disposition against sinners and not able to bear them. 'No' says he, 'I am meek; gentleness is my nature and temper.'" What is your response to the gentle and lowly Jesus?

Chapter 2-His heart in action

- 1 How does Christ's heart respond to suffering and sufferers?
- 2 What are some ways we end up with a lopsided view of Christ? How do we avoid a lopsided vision of who Christ is?
- 3 Can we exaggerate the affectionate heart of Christ? Why or why not?
- 4 What is most natural to the heart of Christ? Where do you see this in Jesus? How does this personally comfort you?
- 5 Reflect together on Goodwin's quote, "Christ is love covered over in flesh."

Chapter 3-The happiness of Christ

- 1 How would you finish this sentence, Christ's "own joy, comfort, happiness, and glory are increased and enlarged by...?"
- 2 How does Thomas Goodwin finish the same sentence? Give your reaction to his words.
- 3 How is it that when we draw on God's grace Christ receives more comfort than we do? What does this say about his heart for us?
- 4 How can Christ be filled with more comfort? Or how do we understand this with regard to his humanity and divinity?
- 5 What is the Biblical basis for Christ's joy or happiness?

Chapter 4-Able to sympathize

- 1 Why did Thomas Goodwin appreciate Hebrews 4:15 so much? What touches your heart about his description of this passage?

- 2 In your own words explain and describe what it means that Christ “sympathizes” with us.
- 3 How close is Jesus with us? Ponder the phrase “in every respect” in a way that maintains Jesus’ sinlessness without diluting what that phrase means.
- 4 In what circumstances of your life does it help to know that Jesus sympathizes with you?

Chapter 5-**He can deal gently**

- 1 If you’re a mother, how have you dealt with the failures of your children?
- 2 What is the “what” of Christ’s high priestly ministry? What is the “how” of his high priestly ministry?
- 3 What are some examples of accidental and willful sins?
- 4 p.56-What does John Owen say about Christ’s nature?
- 5 What is your response to this lesson about Christ?

Chapter 6-**I will never cast out**

- 1 Reflect and comment on each of the following words from John 6:37: All, Father, Gives, Will come, And whoever comes, Comes to me.
- 2 What objections do you personally have to Jesus’ words that he will never cast out? What sins in your life might, if it were possible, cause Jesus to cast you away? How do Jesus’ words “in no wise” address these objections?
- 3 What is the only thing required of us to never be cast out?
- 4 P. 66-How is John 6:37 teaching something more than perseverance of the saints?

Chapter 7-**What our sins evoke**

- 1 Why don’t we feel the weight of our sin more?
- 2 Reflect on the amazing truth of Romans 5:20 in regards to the heart of Christ.
- 3 How does Christ’s holiness make him both revolt against our sin and at the same time drawn toward us as sinners?
- 4 Read Hosea 11:7-9. What does this passage say about our sin? What does it say about God’s heart?

- 5 Share together your thoughts over this line: "It is not our loveliness that wins his love. It is our unloveliness." P. 75

Chapter 8-To the uttermost

- 1 When you think about what Christ is doing today what comes to your mind?
- 2 What does it mean that Christ is interceding for us? How does it relate to his earthly work?
- 3 Reflect together on this statement from Ortlund: "The intercession of Christ is his heart connecting our heart to the Father's heart." P. 82
- 4 Read together Hebrews 7:25 and put in your own words what it means that Christ saves to the uttermost because he lives to intercede for us.
- 5 What does this lesson teach us about Christ's heart?

Chapter 9-An Advocate

- 1 What is the difference between the truth of Christ's intercession and his advocacy?
- 2 Read together 1 John 2:1 and apply the truth of Christ as advocate to yourselves. What does it mean that Christ is our advocate? Who is this advocate for? When will we receive this advocacy? Why is Christ as advocate able to help us?
- 3 Reflect together on the quote from Bunyan about Christ as priest/intercessor and Christ as advocate. P.90
- 4 What comfort does it bring you that Christ is your advocate? Be specific. What kind of Christian does it encourage you to be when you know Christ is your advocate?

Chapter 10-The beauty of the heart of Christ

- 1 What is it about Christ the most attracts you to him? His glory? His immensity? His sovereignty?
- 2 Why does Jonathan Edwards say that it's the beauty of Christ's heart that is most attractive about Christ? Or that has the most impact on us?
- 3 How are you startled or surprised by the beauty of Christ's heart? When you're suffering? When you feel forsaken? When you sin?
- 4 How could you go about "romancing" the heart of Christ?
- 5 Do you agree that our job, with respect to the next generation, is "to make the tender heart of Christ irresistible and unforgettable?" p. 100 Is that what our children need?

