

The Dynamic Functions of the Heart Session 1

Introduction

Proverbs 20:5

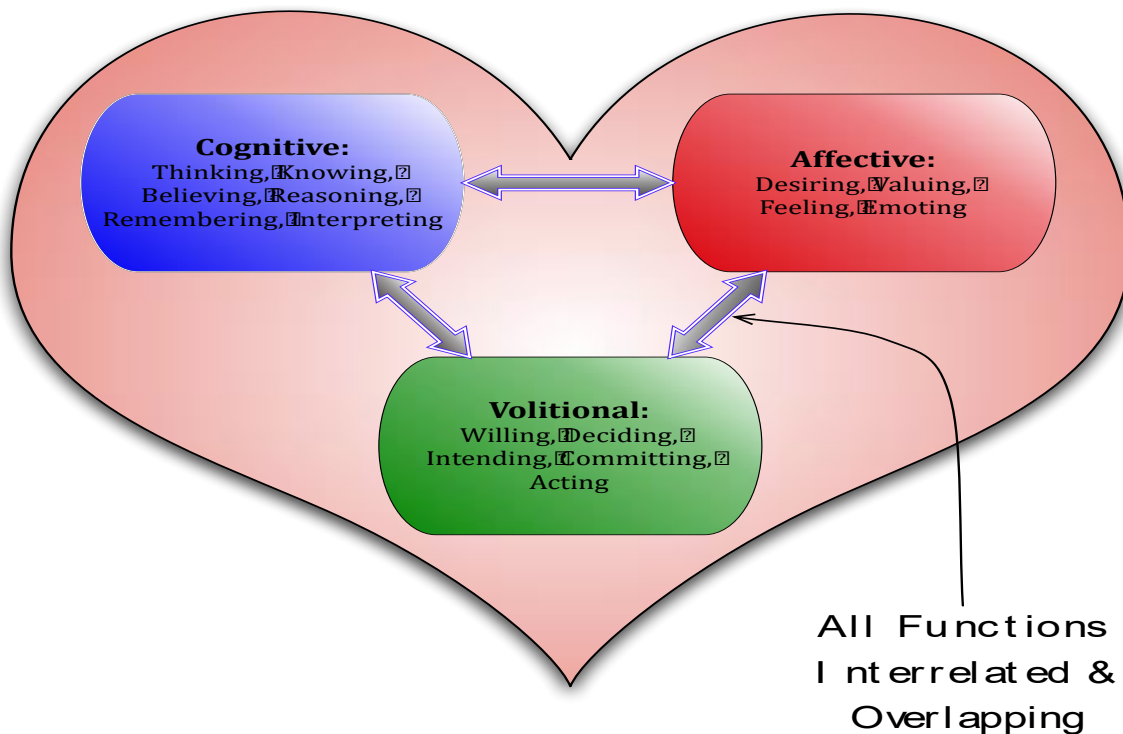
“The purpose in a man’s heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.”

What does Scripture have to say about the following problem?

Binge Eating Disorder - Binge eating disorder is defined as recurring episodes of eating significantly more food in a short period of time than most people would eat under similar circumstances, with episodes marked by feelings of lack of control. Someone with binge eating disorder may eat too quickly, even when he or she is not hungry. The person may have feelings of guilt, embarrassment, or disgust and may binge eat alone to hide the behavior. This disorder is associated with marked distress and occurs, on average, at least once a week over three months.

A Theology of Human Experience

The Dynamic Heart: Functions



Cognition - The Thinking Heart

- Cognition is the ability to think, to acquire knowledge, to process information, to believe certain propositions as true, and to interpret new information based on those beliefs.
- The Old Testament and New Testaments refer to cognition occurring in the heart.¹
- What people believe about the world determines how they interpret new information they receive as they live in it.

Affection - The Feeling Heart

- Strong desires and emotions motivate people.
- The Old Testament and New Testament attribute feelings and emotions to the heart.²

Volition - The Intentional Heart

- The heart's intentions drive a person's actions.
- The Old Testament and New Testaments refer to the heart as the place of intentions and choices.³

Necessarily Interrelated

Scripture gives indication that all of these functions are attributed to the heart, but that the heart is a single unit. This is three dimensions of a single object.

The Integrated, Worshipping Heart

People were made to worship God with all their heart—the full breadth of their internal experience and external conduct.

¹ Examples include: Genesis 17:17; Genesis 24:45; Deuteronomy 15:9; 1 Kings 3:12; 1 Kings 4:29; Psalms 139:12; Jeremiah 4:14; Matthew 9:4, par. Mark 2:8, Luke 5:22; Luke 9:47; Mark 8:17; Romans 10:6; 1 Corinthians 2:9, par. Isaiah 64:4; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Ephesians 4:18

² Examples include: Deuteronomy 28:47; Judges 19:9; 2 Samuel 13:28; Zechariah 10:7; Job 29:13; Psalm 45:1; Deuteronomy 15:10; Nehemiah 2:2; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 38:10; Psalm 55:4; Psalm 73:24; Proverbs 14:13; Lamentations 1:20; Isaiah 15:5; Isaiah 65:14; Jeremiah 4:19; 1 Samuel 9:20; 1 Samuel 25:25; Hosea 11:8; Deuteronomy 19:6; Psalm 20:4; Psalm 21:2; Psalm 35:25; Psalm 37:4; Psalm 40:8; Proverbs 6:25; Proverbs 13:12; Numbers 15:39; 1 Samuel 23:20; 2 Samuel 3:21; 2 Chronicles 15:5; Job 17:11; Job 31:7; Ecclesiastes 2:10; Matthew 5:28; Matthew 6:21, par. Luke 12:34; Luke 24:32; John 14:1, 27; John 16:6; John 16:22; Luke 2:26; Luke 2:46; Luke 7:54; Luke 14:17; Luke 21:13; Romans 1:24; Romans 9:2; Romans 10:1; 2 Corinthians 2:4; 2 Corinthians 3:2; 2 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 7:3; 2 Corinthians 8:16; Philippians 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:17; Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15–16.

³ Examples include: 1 Samuel 2:35; 1 Kings 8:17; Jeremiah 23:20; Isaiah 10:7; 1 Chronicles 22:19; Ezra 7:10; Daniel 1:8; Jeremiah 7:31; Exodus 36:2; Numbers 16:28; Psalm 9:1; Psalm 86:12; Psalm 111:1; Psalm 119:2, 10, 34, 68, 145; Isaiah 38:3; Jeremiah 3:10; Jeremiah 24:7; Matthew 5:28; Matthew 15:8, Mark 7:6, par. Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:18–19; Matthew 18:35; John 13:2; Acts 5:3–4; Acts 7:39; Acts 8:22; Romans 2:5; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 7:37; Ephesians 6:5, par. Colossians 3:22.

Dynamic Ruin, Dynamic Restoration Session 2

Introduction

What sort of monster then is man?
What a novelty, what a portent, what a chaos,
what a mass of contradictions, what a prodigy!
Judge of all things,
a ridiculous earthworm who is the repository of truth,
a sink of uncertainty and error;
the glory and the scum of the world.
– Blaise Pascal

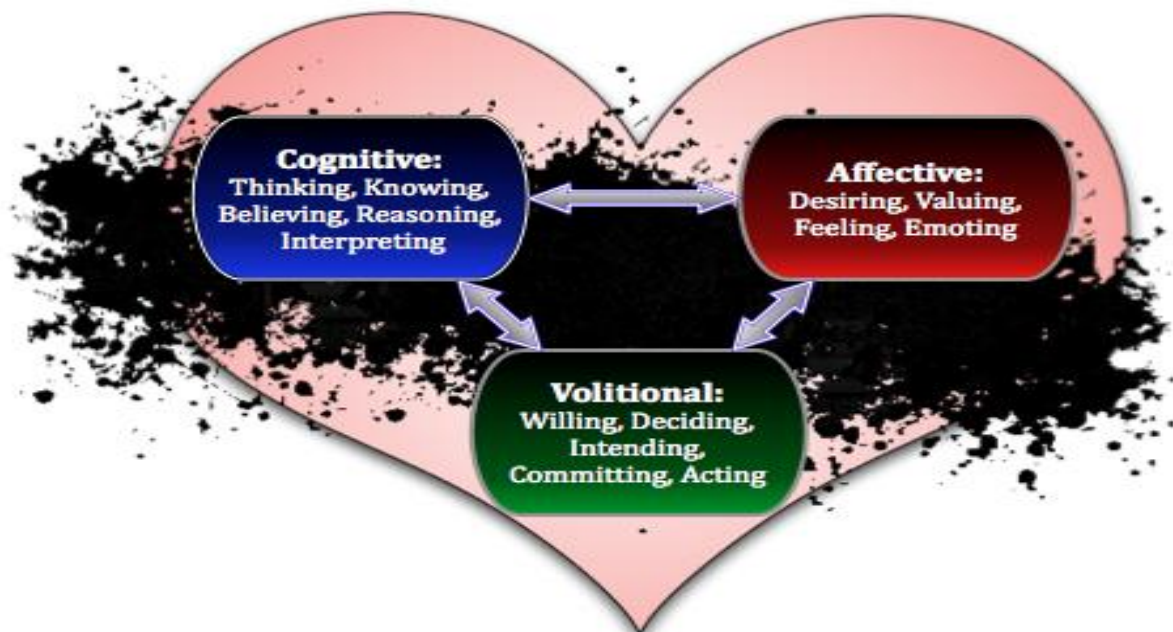
Dynamic Ruin

The narrative of the first sin event – Genesis 3

Displaced Cognitive Knowledge
Altered Affective Desires
New Volitional Choices

Dynamic Unfaithfulness

The common root of all sin: lack of trust in God and his perspective revealed through his Word.



Dynamic Restoration

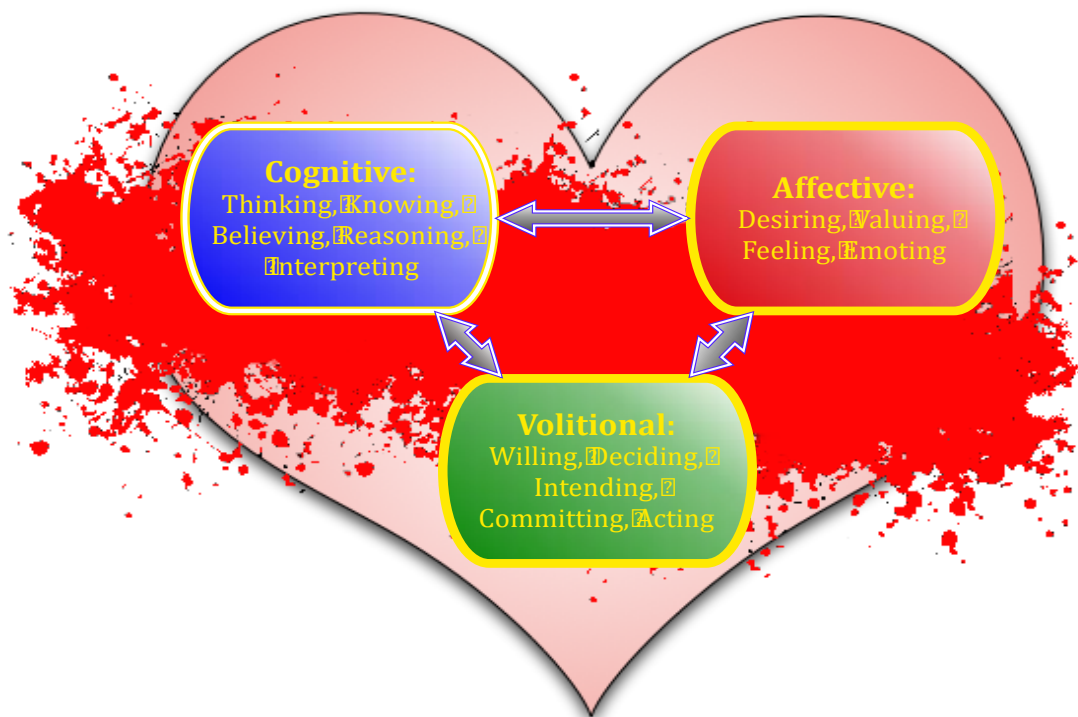
Faith in Christ is the means by which the dynamic heart is restored to do what it was designed for: to worship God in thought, desire, and choice. Faith is how a heart receives the righteousness of Jesus Christ and that righteousness retakes control of the dynamic design, restoring the beauty of its ability to worship God.

Jesus' Dynamic Faith

- Jesus' faith-enabled obedience in suffering is exemplary to human faith, and it is also causative, foundational, necessary.

The Heart's Dynamic Faith

- Faith is dynamically expressed in the way people intuitively respond to their everyday circumstances.
- By faith, the righteousness of Christ retakes control of the human response system that sin had hijacked.
- In this present life, righteousness will not characterize every aspect of human experience.
- The effects of righteousness in believers' hearts are sure, powerful, transforming as the Holy Spirit works initial, progressive, and future sanctification into their lives.



A Thinking Faith

- Jesus redeems people's thinking by granting them new core beliefs that lead to an entirely new interpretation of their situations.
- Because sanctification has an initial, progressive, and future aspect, no one's beliefs are perfectly restored in this life.

A Desiring Faith

- Through submission to the Spirit, God himself becomes the control desire, shaping a person's perception of what is beautiful and good in life.
- Christians' emotional lives more closely reflect the values of God—himself supremely, and all good things secondarily.

A Committed Faith

- Faith inserts new control commitments.
- The Holy Spirit frees people to obey God willingly, whereas before they were volitionally bound to sin.
- This is the necessary relationship between faith and obedience.

Applied to our friend diagnosed with Binge Eating Disorder

The Dynamic Heart in Context

Lecture 3

Introduction

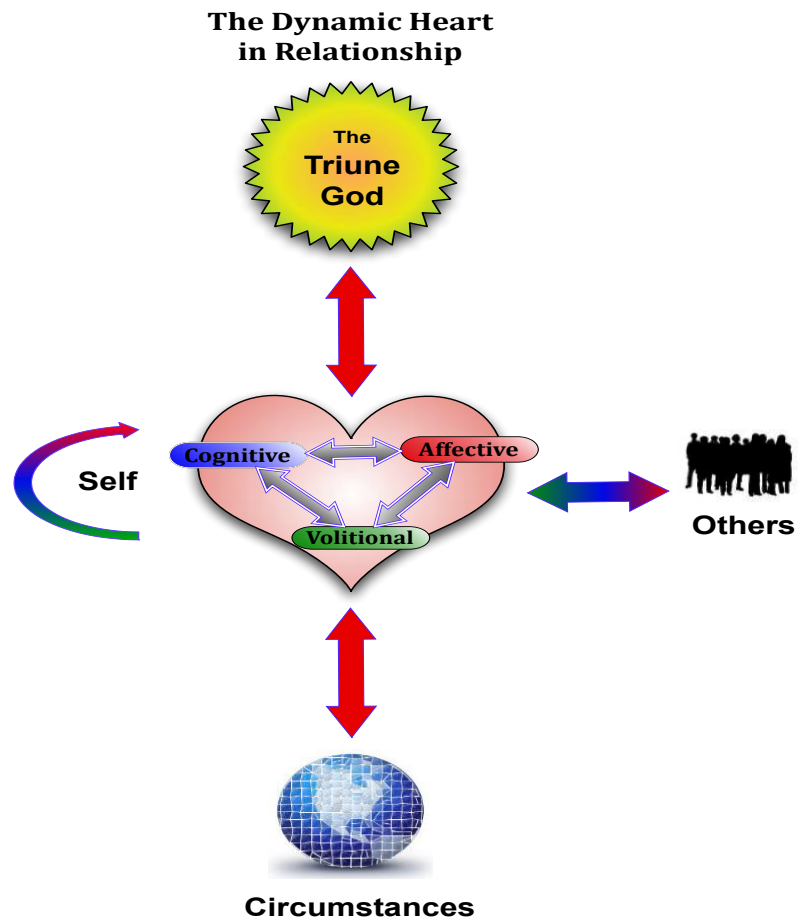
People are relational beings, and this is not merely an implication of being created in the image of God, but is essential to it.

The Four Components of Human Context

We must understand the context of heart response in order to care for people biblically. We should think in two directions: the influence that context has on a person's heart *and* the active response of a person's heart to that context. Context always involves at least four components: The dynamic heart responds to God, to self, to others, and to circumstances

The four contexts of human experience are vital to recognize when considering a person's experience of the world.

- The most important context of the heart's response is God himself.
- The remaining three contexts—self, others, and circumstances—are where a heart daily operates in the visible world.



To God

Cognitive

What do they believe about God? Is he unimportant or irrelevant to the way they talk about their problem? Is he angry and disapproving? Is he causal and permissive? Is he distant and uncaring? Or, perhaps their view of God is biblically accurate, but seems to be a theoretical instead of functional belief?

Affective

How do they feel toward God? Feelings reveal desires, and people tend to measure God by their own desires, either using him to confirm their own wants or being upset with him for withholding their own wants. Does their life demonstrate a dynamic desire for him, or do desires for others things seem more dynamically active? What do they wish God would do for them?

Volitional

Does their life demonstrate dedication to God? What core commitments seem to motivate the person, and how do they align with those God prioritizes? What do they pursue hardest in life, a slot reserved for God alone? Is obedience a burden or a joy in the way they talk about God's expectations of them?

To Self

Cognitive

What do they think about themselves, both generally and specific to the situation? You're looking for what they believe about themselves. A good way to uncover this for those who believe in God is to ask them what they think God thinks of them. This often reveals some of their truest self-conceptions.

Affective

How do they feel about themselves? Feelings reveal desires, so what do they most wish were true of themselves? What is their "ideal me," a construction they are measuring themselves by? Or, said differently, what value system are they measuring themselves by?

Volitional

How do their actions reflect their beliefs and values about self? What does their pattern of behavior—their weekly use of time, their interactions with others, their media intake—reinforce in their self-perceptions? How does their dedication toward self relate to their dedication to God? In what ways is the one stronger than the other?

To Others

Cognitive

Who are the most important shaping influences in their life? How do the beliefs of others shape their own? In what particular ways is that influence being exerted—condemning words, affirming words,

randomly expressed opinions? What layers of culture are most prominent in shaping their assumptions about life—from social media, to mass media, to family, to specific vocational industry, etc.?

Affective

How do they respond emotionally to other people? Whose opinions seem most important to them? Who are the people who bother them most, make them happiest? How do the values of others affect their own values? In other words, what desires are they mimicking from the people around them? Remember, this is general cultural voices (media, etc.) as well as close personal relationships (family, friends, etc.). How do their emotions shape their responses to others? Consider their words and actions toward others, and what it indicates about what they want from the relationship.

Volitional

How do their commitments reflect the commitments of those around them? To what are they most loyal in the relational circles where they live? How do their choices in relationship show these loyalties?

To Circumstances

Cognitive

What do their interpretations of the situation reveal about their core assumptions about life? What do they pay most attention to in describing their circumstances? What's their overall take on the problem with which they want help?

Affective

How do they respond emotionally to their circumstances? What do their feelings indicate about the values from which they're operating? How have these values been conditioned by significant events in their life? How have these values been conditioned by their unique, daily situation?

Volitional

What choices are they making in response to their circumstances? How do these choices establish patterns of behavior? What do these patterns reveal about their core commitments?