



**Growing in Love for God- Week 2  
June 17, 2026**

**Our Goal:** To grow in truth and knowledge in the mind of our heart, by the word of Christ and the ministry of his Spirit, to influence the desires and will of the heart, for love for God.

**1. Review**

**What This Study is About**

**The Command to Love the Lord with All Your Heart**

**The Heart with Which We Love the Lord**

*“The heart is the governing center of a person. When used simply, it reflects the unity of our inner being, and when used comprehensively, it describes the complexity of our inner being as composed of mind (what we know), desires (what we love), and will (what we choose).” Craig Troxel, With All Your Heart, pg. 21*

*“Heart’ is used in Scripture, first and foremost, to refer to the unity of our inner self. The mind, the desires, and the will are distinct functions of the heart, but they are not separate or unrelated. They constantly influence and relate to one another. This is the way the heart was meant to operate- with knowledge, affection, and volition. Our reasoning is inseparably bound up with our affections and feelings...” Troxel, pg 47*

**Christ for The Heart**

## **2. The Mind of The Heart**

*“The heart includes and encompasses the mind with all its cognitive abilities, like reasoning, meditating, remembering, and believing. This is why the words ‘heart’ and ‘mind’ often appear together in Scripture. In such instances, they are not being contrasted but coordinated... Jesus commanded, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’ (Matt. 22:37). The point is not that the heart, soul, and mind represent separate entities of our inner nature. To the contrary, they overlap and harmonize... Our thinking is related to the other chambers of the heart.” Troxel pg. 32-33*

## **Sin in The Mind of The Heart**

### **The Redeemed and Renewed Mind (Christ, The Prophet for The Mind of The Heart)**

*“Christ continues his prophetic ministry through the ministry of the Spirit, who convicts us, indwells us, leads us, comforts us, and assures us of the truth of Christ. We need the ministry, especially when we fail. We need someone who will tell us the truth.” Troxel, pg. 52*

## **The Mind’s Relationship to The Desires and Will of The Heart**

### 3. Keeping the Mind for Love for God

#### Preserving and Protecting the Mind for Love for God

##### The Word Dwelling in Us and Setting the Mind on What is True

The Reformation Triangle (Matthew Bingham): Reading and Hearing/ Reflecting and Meditating/ Praying and Responding

*“Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God. It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communion with God. Its purpose is to clear one’s mental and spiritual vision of God, and to let his truth make its full and proper impact on one’s mind and heart. It is a matter of talking to oneself about God and oneself; it is, indeed, often a matter of arguing with oneself, reasoning oneself out of a mood of doubt and unbelief into a clear apprehension of God’s power and grace.” J.I. Packer, Knowing God, pg. 22*

**To-Do-Take-Away:** At the beginning of each day, at intervals throughout the day, when receiving information and processing it, and at night before you sleep, ask, “How can I, did I, love God with the mind of my heart?”

##### Resources

Craig Troxel, *With All Your Heart*, John Flavel, *Keeping the Heart*, Matthew Bingham, *A Heart Aflame for God*, Milton Vincent, *A Gospel Primer for Christians*