

## Pastor Mike's Bookshelf

### ***With All Your Heart: Orienting Your Mind, Desires, and Will Toward Christ***

A. Craig Troxel

When we speak of our hearts in a non-biological sense, we are usually referring to feelings, desires and passions. The “heart” is often contrasted with the “head,” which is seen as the seat of rational thought. And in our current context, the matters of the heart, feelings and desires, are often taken as more important and significant than the matters of the head – “heartless, cold reason.”

But is this how the Bible uses the words translated from Hebrew and Greek as “heart”? For instance, in Matthew 18:35, Jesus says this to His disciples: “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” Is He calling us to feel a certain way toward the person we are forgiving? Or is it broader than that?

In this book A. Craig Troxel has provided an in depth, comprehensive study of the meaning of the human heart in scripture. He points out that the Scriptures do not only use heart for feelings, but more often use it to refer to our minds (reason) and will. He provides numerous biblical examples of the importance of understanding the biblical use of the word “heart” in this way, rather than importing the current popular definition and use of the word. The meaning and application can be significantly altered by using the wrong definition. Troxel's insights provide helpful input not only regarding how we love one another, but in what it means to love God with an undivided heart.

Because I “read” this book as an audio book, I don't have a physical copy to place on the bookshelf at this time. Previous recommendations can be found here: <https://church.stjohnsnapa.org/resources/pastor-mikes-bookshelf>

