FOLLOW YOUR HEART? 
You have heard it said many times before: “Just follow your heart.” That statement sounds so warm and fuzzy, but according to God, it is one of the worst and most dangerous pieces of advice you could ever get or give when it comes to matters of absolute truth with eternal significance. Jeremiah 17:9—“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” Translation: The heart is not the solution—it’s usually the problem.

“Follow your heart” is really code for “Follow your feelings.” You can believe something to be true, but that doesn’t make it true. What sounds true will not set you free. Only the truth will set you free. Mark Twain once said, “Isn’t it what you don’t know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for wrong that just isn’t so that gets you into trouble.”

It doesn’t matter how much you believe something in your heart or how long you have believed it “with all your heart”—sincerity alone will not guarantee that you are doing the right thing. In fact, you can believe your way into bondage, and disaster. Proverbs 14:12—“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”

When popular sayings and clichés like “just follow your heart” don’t pan out, people sometimes get mad at God, because they have falsely believed that “follow your heart” is in the Bible. God never once said in the Bible, “Just follow your heart.” In fact, He said just the opposite.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).

“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

Scripture is clear that our heart is not a trustworthy moral compass. “Follow Your Heart” is a humanistic statement that assumes we have within ourselves the inner moral compass to choose the best and most notable thing with no direction from God. The truth is we have an amazing capacity to underestimate how much we overestimate ourselves in our ability to do what we think is right. The heart is the problem, not the solution. Scripture also says: “For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander” (Matthew 15:19).

When we follow our feelings instead of God’s truth, it is possible for us to feel total peace in our hearts while we are doing things that are totally wrong and sinful. We just convince ourselves, using feelings as our guide, that things are right when, in reality, they are very wrong. Here are a couple of examples:

In the book of Acts, Paul said his conscience was totally clear when he was throwing Christians in prison and having them killed. Later, he repented when he learned the truth.

I have known people who walked out on their spouses and children to go have an affair with someone they have convinced themselves they’ve fallen in love with. Or more than one occasion, people like this have said to me, “I don’t think it’s wrong to follow my heart, because doesn’t the Bible say that it’s the heart that matters most?”

No, the Bible does not say, “It’s the heart that matters most.” I encourage you to never do anything just because you feel like your heart is telling you to do it. Your heart has a voice in the decisions we make in our lives, but it should always be seen as a yellow caution light. Our feelings should never be given the final say in our lives. If we keep doing something we think our heart is telling us to do and we do long enough, our heart will eventually become fine with it, justify it, or become hard and continue doing it, even though what your heart is telling you to do is clearly against God’s stated will in the Bible. We can actually convince our hearts that something is right, simply because you want it to be wrong. There is a song from the past that illustrates this point: “If loving you is wrong, I don’t want to be right.”

In the end, the heart doesn’t need to be followed—it needs to be led—by the word and Spirit of God. You can train your heart to go where it needs to go, not just where it feels like going. You can discipline your heart.

The importance of letting your heart be led by God, instead of being led by feelings, can be seen in what Jesus said in Luke 12:34—“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” On another occasion, Jesus didn’t say, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in your hearts.” What He did say was, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in my words.”

You do not follow your heart as a way to obey God. You decide to obey God, and then let your heart catch up and follow. The heart does not tell us what is right. However, God does in His Bible. “Follow your heart” is not in the Bible. You will not do the right things or make the best decisions in life simply because you followed your heart, but because you chose to be led by God. —Steve

ATTN PARENTS: 
Please let our teachers know if your child has any food allergies, items of comfort, i.e. blanket, stuffed animal, or any other special things that would make your child’s experience a great one.

be my bowlineint bowling party 
4th and 5th grade families: Bowling Party at Tusculum Lanes on February 10 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Parents and siblings are welcome to come as bowlers or non-bowlers. Be watching for a Sign-up Genius email or email for more information.

nursery—Jamie Frankum, Melanie Garrett, Pam Hays

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We were all visitors once too, and we really are glad you’re here! We know you may have some questions. We did. All we ask is that you give us a chance to answer them and help you in any way we can—no strings attached.

Not sure where to go? Need something? Ushers are waiting to help you with anything you may need, as well as direct you to restrooms, the nursery, etc. All you have to do is ask, and we’ll do everything we can to help.

About our worship
All of our acts of worship are strictly voluntary, and you may participate according to your comfort level. (Return communion cups to the tray; please do not stack cups.)

Nursery
There is an attended nursery available for children birth through 36 months. We also have Bible story coloring sheets and crayons available in the Sprouts unattended common area, along with a streaming of the service, for those who have children between 36 months and 3 years. An usher will be happy to show you the way.

Children’s Worship
We offer a time of worship and learning for children ages 3 to kindergarten. Since we feel that it is important for these children to get some exposure to our larger gathering as well, the dismissal time is usually 15-20 minutes into the worship service. The “Kids’ Praise” logo will appear on the screen when it’s time to dismiss. An usher will be happy to show you the way.

Bible Study
Following our worship service, we invite you to stay for a time of Bible study. We believe you’ll be glad you did. A list of classes is available in the Great Hall.

Want to know more about us?
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To Our Members...
We are very excited to be welcoming new families and welcome you to attend the ceremony and remain for the service. We thank you for your commitment to the church, and you will be happy to know that we are excited to welcome you to our family of faith.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
Lord, We Come Before Thee Now
Baby Blessings.......................................................Elders
Welcome.......................................................Walt Malone
Philippians 2:1-2.......................................................Eli Duncan
I All Hal the Power of Jesus’ Name O Bc Like Thee In Christ Alone
Blessed Be Your Name As the Deer Thirsts
Open the Eyes of My Heart
Prayer..........................................................................David Moon
Faithful Love
Communion.............................................................Jonathan Davidson
Kids’ Praise
I Love You With the Love of the Lord
Blest Be the Tie
Sermon.................................................................Steve Cummings
Do You Know My Jesus?
Announcements.....................................................Walt Malone

TODAY’S THEME:
Maintaining unity in the church with a humanistic statement of keeping certain things out, not just keeping certain things in.
golden oldies valentines

Valentine’s Day is right around the corner and with it comes a wonderful opportunity to serve some of our very own! Each Valentine’s Day we offer the opportunity to sign up to take one of our sweet Golden Oldies (our widows/widowers and shut-ins) some flowers, candy, a card, etc., to make sure they feel loved! Please sign up at Sign-Up Central, and around Valentine’s Day you will have an assigned Golden Oldie e-mailed to you. Just pick them up a treat and deliver it to their house. It’s that simple! This is something that we have been doing for several years now, and we know that it is a blessing to both those giving the gifts as well as those receiving them. We need your help to make this a success! Sign up today or see Walt Malone with any questions.

Scripture(s) for the week: Mark chapters 2 thru 7 (Ca.27 - 30AD) (Except for the birth of Christ and the final weeks of his life, the exact chronological order of the events recorded in the Gospels are not certain. For the next few weeks, we will read, in order, Mark, thought to be the first Gospel to be written, Luke, Matthew, and John)

fellowship meal

Our First Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal for this year will be Wednesday, January 31, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. The menu will be Breakfast—eggs, bacon, hash brown casserole, pancakes, fruit, juice, and coffee. You would like to help with any or all of the following—set up, prepare, serve, clean up, and reset the room—please call Patsy Peach—615-417-7668 or email patsy.peach@gmail.com. We will definitely need helpers for serving the food. You will also be given a chance to donate to offset the cost of the food.

happy anniversary

Congratulations to Enoch and Janice Hartman, who will celebrate their 56th Wedding Anniversary on Friday, January 25.

new ministry

Have you ever taught someone a new skill or talent? Do you remember how good that felt? We are going to start ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Tusculum on February 6. We will have an information/training class on January 30 in classroom 7. If you are interested in helping, please call Mike Dotson at 615-418-3521 or email him at mikedotson@tusculum.org.

sunday school

Scout Sunday—February 10

Scout Sunday, part of the birthday celebration of the Boy Scouts of America, is February 10. Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and adult Scout leaders are encouraged to wear their full uniforms during worship in recognition of the 12th Point of the Scout Law: “A Scout is Reverent.” Former Scouts and leaders, as well as those who do not choose to wear their full uniforms, are invited to wear their neckerchiefs or another Scoutng token to identify themselves as Scouts.

Let’s do this again!

Please join us once again on Saturday, February 2, to do simple repairs on the auditorium chairs. We will be sewing the torn corners. Some supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring your own needles (especially curved ones) and thread. Anyone and everyone...can do this! It is just a simple whip stitch. Please plan to working from 9 a.m. to noon. Come for any amount of time available. If you have any questions, contact Patsy Peach.

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Church Life Group worship—February 2

We will be doing a church-wide Life Group worship on February 2. If you are able to serve in any capacity, please call Charles Watson (615 624-2667) or Ashley Richardson (615 419-3302)

sunday worship

If you are unable to serve any week of the month, PLEASE CONTACT:

North Side

Jan Foremy (615) 327-3205

Brett Scott (615) 406-5023

Elsa Kelley (615) 474-4227

South Side

Sarah Allard (615) 811-6170

Mike Cromer (615) 612-4781

David Green (615) 502-3525

Holly Alexander (615) 502-3543

We will have an information/training class on January 30 in classroom 7. If you are interested in helping, please call Mike Dotson at 615-418-3521 or email him at mikedotson@tusculum.org.

remember our sick....

The following is a recent update. A full list of those to remember in prayer is available in the narthex rocks in the Great Hall.

Carole Ann Hughey had outpatient foot surgery on Thursday. She will be immobile for 8 weeks.

Bonnie Overstreet is in NHC Cool Springs, room 1407B. No visitors at this time.

Janice Gosselin is at home working on regaining her strength, and balance after a 2-week stay in the hospital.

Martha Pulley is in room 128B, Bethany Health Care Center. Ryland Helmlinger, son of Kelly and Pam, still needs our prayers. They have put Ryland on the liver transplant list.

Harrison Waldron has been offered a 3-week interment at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab in Chicago for medication management and physical, occupational, and speech therapy technologies. In order to be able to go to Chicago, they are raising funds. You can donate at helpharrison.org, or write a check to Tusculum Church of Christ and mark for Harrison Waldron. Please keep this family in your prayers as they take this next step for Harrison.

Beverly Dawson, mother of Julie Whistler, needs our prayers as she deals with multiple medical issues. Please continue sending cards; she loves getting those! Her address is: Spring Hill Morning Pointe, Room 204, 1101 McCutcheon Creek Lane, Spring Hill, TN 37174.

Ruby Shaffer is at Life Center Care of Hickory Woods, Room 106, 4200 Murfreesboro Pike, Antioch, TN 37013.

Larry Enomoto, nephew of Lonnell Parker, had surgery to remove a brain tumor. The news was not good. Prayers are requested.

RETURNED HOME: Betty Stinson (14201 Old Hickory Blvd., Antioch, TN 37013) and her sister, Lisa Albury, also of Antioch.
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gadooldies valentinesthe
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need prayer?
Paul wrote the following to his friend Timothy: “First of all, then, I urge that supplication, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for all people.” For Paul, first importance was given to praying for one another. What better way for us to unify than to pray with and for one another? If we are to be BETTER this year, we must begin praying for one another. Paul also challenged the church in Philippi with these words: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every thing by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God.” You may become anxious as you step out in faith to serve in a new way. If that is you, then pray! Our Shepherds challenge is for us to do and serve MORE this year. Do you need prayer? We now have a secured prayer box in the church office. The Shepherds want you to know that they are there to pray with and for you. The Shepherds want to lead the Tusculum family to HIGHER things, and they know how important it is to do this.—Will Tidwell

bridal shower
All the ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Leighton Lindstrom, bride-elect of Cody Sonora, on Sunday, February 3, 2:00–3:30 p.m. in the TYM Café. They are registered at Pottery Barn, Williams Sonoma, Amazon, and Bed Bath and Beyond. Cody is the son of Randy and Treva Doores.

Scripture(s) for the week: Mark chapters 2 thru 7 (Ca 27 - 30AD) (Except for the birth of Christ and the first weeks of his life, the exact chronological order of the events reported in the Gospels are not certain. For the next few weeks, we will read, in order, Mark, thought to be the first Gospel to be written, Luke, Matthew, and John)

Verse(s) of the week: Romans 8:38—“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV) (Courtesy of Keagan White – 7th Grade)

fellowship meal
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will available: TCC
facebook.com/tusculumchurchofchrist
http://twitter.com/tusculumchurch

South Servers 1  Ashley Comer 2 Ray Burgess, Jr. 3 Doug Wooten 4 Josh Dickerson 5 Rufus Smith 6 Lee Davis 7 Ethan Hesselrod
South Servers 1 Ashley Comer 2 Cooper Leech 3 Darrell Waters 4 Bobby McPherson 5 Greg Leach 6 Mike Coron 7 Frank Copeland 8 Dennis Green

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university connection
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South Side
Jim Pomerey (615) 927-3055
Bret Scott (615) 406-5023
Elisa Kelley (615) 417-4227

North Side
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5:00 Worship January Speaker—Will Tidwell Opening Prayer—Chris Robinson Presence of the Word—Steve Cummings, pulpit minister Closing Prayer—Brett Byram

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When we follow our feelings instead of God.

Immorality, theft, lying, and slander are things with no direction from God. The truth is we have an amazing capacity to get ourselves into bondage, and disaster. Proverbs 17:9—“The heart is the most deceitful of all things, just as the bow of a master archer is deceitful.” Jeremiah 17:9—“The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and is really code for ‘Follow your feelings.’” Follow your feelings. What sounds true will usually be followed. An old saying: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that the Lord utters.” What is true is what the Bible says is true. The Bible is the only reference point we have in this life. Mark Twain once said, “A lie can be proved true, but a truth can be proved false.” That is the problem. It is not in the Bible. The Bible does not say, “You shall not lie.” The Bible says, “You shall not bear false witness.” What we believe is what we make true. “Follow your heart.” What are you making true? Matthew 15:19—“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, lustful acts, and all kinds of wickedness.” (Matthew 15:19). What you are making true is what you are making real in your life.

When we follow our feelings instead of God’s truth, it is possible for us to feel total peace in our hearts while we are doing things that are totally wrong and sinful. We just convince ourselves, using feelings as our guide, that things are right when, in reality, they are very wrong. Here are a couple examples:

In the book of Acts, Paul said his conscience was totally clear when he was throwing Christians in prison and having them killed. Later, he repented when he learned the truth. I have known people who walked out of their spouses and children to go have an affair with someone they have convinced themselves they’ve fallen in love with. Or more than one occasion, people like this have said to me, “I don’t think it’s wrong to follow my heart, because doesn’t the Bible say that it’s the heart that matters most?”

It doesn’t matter how much you believe something in your heart or how long you have believed it “with all your heart”—sincerity alone will not guarantee that you are doing the right thing. In fact, you can believe your way into bondage, and disaster. Proverbs 14:12—“There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”

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Scripture is clear that our heart is not a trustworthy moral compass. “Follow Your Heart” is a humanistic statement that assumes we have within ourselves the inner moral compass to choose the best and most noble thing with no direction from God. The truth is we have an amazing capacity to underestimate how much we overestimate to ourselves in our ability to guide our own steps right or wrong. Jeremiah 10:23—“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

Paul reflected on the rebellion of all humanity and how God abandons us when we fail to follow him: Romans 1:24 (NKJV)—“God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired.” What a terrible thought—to be abandoned by God. Wake up America. Jesus once said, “For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander” (Matthew 15:19).

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We offer a time of worship and learning for children ages 3 to kindergarten. Since we feel that it is important for these children to get some exposure to our larger gathering as well, the dismissal time is usually 15-20 minutes into the worship service. The “Kids’ Praise” logo will appear on the screen when it’s time to dismiss. An usher will be happy to show you your way.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

We follow our worship service, we invite you to stay for a time of Bible study. We believe you’ll be glad you did. A list of classes is available in the Great Hall.

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