



What the World Needs Now Is...

Guarding Love

Guarding love protects from threats and helps relationships feel safe and secure

Healthy relationships are always under attack

- In and around school and the workplace
- Within the church body
- Between the best of friends
- Between children and their parents
- And certainly between husbands and wives

1 Peter 5:8

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Attacks come in two basic forms

- Open attacks range from criticism or gossip on a personal level to full media attacks on the value and sanctity of friendships, marriage and the family.
- Sneak attacks are attempts to twist our hearts and minds – *one small step at a time* - away from everything God intends these relationships to be.

Our Heart is the focus of these attacks

- Our heart is the core of who we are.
- In biblical terms, it is a metaphor for the whole of our inner nature, encompassing emotion, conscience, thought and will.
- The heart is where our life meets our world; where we feel deep joy and experience deep pain.
- Where our heart leads, our eyes, mouth, and feet naturally follow.

Proverbs 4:23 - Guard your Heart...

NKJV	NIV	NLT	The Message
Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it <i>spring</i> the issues of life.	Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life	Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.	Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that's where life starts.

To Guard our Heart: To *purposely* place a protective shield around the center of our life.

- **Against Dissatisfaction**
 - Dissatisfaction is a clear indication that we are not abiding in Christ. (John 15)
 - Finish this statement – “*I deserve* _____ (If your answer is anything other than “hell” you are a prime candidate for dissatisfaction in life.)
 - Seeking satisfaction in anything apart from God is called sin
- **Against Bitterness**
 - Keep short accounts with others.
 - Deal with offenses *each day* instead of allowing them to build up.
 - **Ephesians 4:26-27, 31**
 - Apply generous doses of forgiving love
 - Jesus called us to forgive “seventy times seven”
 - **Ephesians 4:32**
- **Against Untruth**
 - Anything that goes against the Word of God is a lie from the Devil. (*Garden of Eden!*)
 - Who you are in the sight of God
 - What is best for you and yours
 - Our thoughts must be taken captive to the truth (2 Corinthians 10:5)
- **Against Itself**
 - **Jeremiah 17:9** – Our heart is deceitful
 - We must depend on God and ask Him to reveal the realities of our heart. (Psalm 139:23-24)

An abiding life is the best source for guarding love

What the World Needs Now Is... Guarding Love

Guarding love protects from threats and helps relationships feel _____ and _____

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- Within the church _____
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- And certainly between _____ and _____

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