

# Pie Chart Heart

**Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name.**

**--Psalm 86:11b**

An undivided heart -- how greatly that is to be desired! A pure heart that sees the Lord and has His will as its sole focus.

Unfortunately, all too often we divide our hearts like a pie chart. We try to keep a slice of that pie completely in love with Jesus, but the rest we divide up between other interests, desires or fears.

One slice of our heart's pie chart is reserved for "fear of man." Since that slice is there, we fail to live up to our full potential for Christ. If our hearts are divided between fear of the Lord and fear of what man might do to us for obeying Christ, we miss out on opportunities that would be ours if our hearts were united in fear of the Lord only.

Another slice of our pie-chart heart is reserved for the lusts of the flesh. A part of us wants nothing more than to dwell in God's presence and gaze upon His glory, but that part which passionately wants blessed fellowship with Him gets stiff competition from the part of our nature that wants to feed on whatever brings us pleasure, sometimes even sinful pleasure.

Still another piece of the pie is consumed by our pride. We want to do what we want, and we want to have our own way. We refuse to let God have the whole pie, because He interferes with our own lordship over our life and schedule.

Then we save a slice of the pie for our doubts. We read the promises of God, but imagine that they have loopholes built in that apply only to us. We evaluate the feasibility of everything He calls us to do based on whether we think we can accomplish it ourselves. In doubt, we don't believe He will provide the funds and abilities and guidance and open doors necessary to complete the task. "God might have come through for you before," we seem to be asking ourselves, "but is that any reason to believe He will do it again?" What a big piece of our hearts' pie charts can be swallowed up by our doubts!

Then there's work and entertainment and a host of other things that aren't bad in and of themselves, but we make them so, by giving them the priority position of our lives that was supposed to be reserved for God.

Before long, we awaken to the fact that we're serving so much of the pie to the world, the flesh, and the devil, that we only have a sliver left for the Lord. Soon, the most consistent thing about our Christian walk is the

inconsistency of it. Our divided-heart, Jekyll-&-Hyde faith takes over, and we become "Sunday Christians," utterly ineffective for the kingdom.

The good news in all of this: If God in His word shows us that we should ask for an undivided heart, we can be sure that it is a gift He stands ready to give us. All we have to do is ask in faith, and it will be ours.

So we don't have to live the defeated, stress-filled, torn-in-every-direction, over-burdened life we've been living anymore. We can take His easy yoke and light burden upon us by becoming single-hearted and making Him and His will our only desire. An undivided heart is against our human nature, but our Lord is in the business of changing our nature to reflect His own. Praise God!

Oh, Father, let me no longer have a pie-chart heart, divided between every pleasure, activity, goal, and fear that competes for my attention. "Give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name."

**"Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Oh, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above."**

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