



October 26, 2025 | Matt Magee

Series: Making Wholehearted Followers of Christ

Sermon Title: REDIRECTING DESIRES - How the Spirit Trains the Heart to Desire What God Desires

Main Scriptures: **Colossians 3:1-4**; Psalm 42:1; Psalm 37:3-5; Matthew 6:19-21; Galatians 5:24-25

OUTLINE

1. Intro Question: The heart is always hungry; the question is, hungry for what?
 1. Our mission, at Oak Grove Church, is making wholehearted followers of Christ. And wholehearted followers of Jesus don't just think correctly; they love rightly. That means our desires must be retrained — redirected by the Spirit to love what God loves.
2. PRINCIPLE — God designed our hearts to find our greatest joy in wholehearted devotion to Him above all else.
3. PROBLEM — Sin corrupted our internal compass so that our affections are mis-calibrated and set on the temporary, futile things of this world.
4. GOSPEL — Jesus is the true, wholehearted Man whose righteous life and death exchanged our futile, earthly affections for His eternal, heavenly ones.
5. RESPONSE — In union with Jesus, we are empowered by the Spirit to daily recalibrate our affections by actively putting off the old self and putting on Christ-like virtues.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Group Note: There are more study questions that are possible to complete in a small group meeting. Leaders should be strategic and selective in the questions they focus on.
- Focus on understanding a concept or two, and then helping one another massage it into your lives so that you can apply it practically.
- BOLD questions could be priority.
- Group Leader: See if your group has reviewed the latest newsletter and briefly skim together if needed. [NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

PRINCIPLE — God Designed Our Hearts to Find Their Greatest Joy in Him

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..." (Col. 3:1)

1. Read *Colossians 3:1–4* and *Psalms 42:1–2*.

What does it mean to “seek the things above” and “set your mind on things above”?

How does this reorient our affections toward God?

2. Pastor Matt described the heart as an “internal GPS.”

How does this image help you understand what it means to desire God rightly?

What does a “recalibrated” heart look like in practice?

3. Read *Psalms 73:25–26*.

How do these verses express wholehearted devotion?

Why is the object of our affection (Christ) more important than the intensity of our emotion?

PROBLEM — Sin Corrupted Our Internal Compass

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matt. 6:21)

4. Sin doesn’t erase desire—it redirects it.

Where do you see this “mis-calibration” most commonly in our culture today?

Where are you personally tempted to seek satisfaction apart from Christ?

5. Read *1 John 2:15–17*.

How do “the lust of the flesh,” “the lust of the eyes,” and “the pride of life” describe ways our desires get distorted?

Which of these three most subtly competes for your affection right now?

GOSPEL — Jesus Is the True Wholehearted Man

“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Col. 3:3)

6. How did Jesus model perfect, Godward affection in His earthly life and ministry?

What specific moments from His life show His love for the Father above all else?

7. Pastor Matt said: “*The cross transferred the eternal wrath due to our corrupted affections to Christ.*”

How does this truth free us from guilt and empower new desire?

Why is union with Christ (“hidden with Christ in God”) essential to changing our loves?

8. Read *Galatians 5:22–25*.

What evidence shows the Spirit is retraining your heart to love what God loves?

Which “fruit of the Spirit” reflects what the Lord is currently cultivating in you?

RESPONSE — The Spirit Recalibrates Our Desires Daily

“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” (Gal. 5:25)

9. In the sermon, we heard five practices for cooperating with the Spirit’s training:

- Honestly assess your desires
- Practice confession
- Feed desire with the Word
- Redirect desire toward worshipful action
- Walk in dependence

Which of these seems most important for your spiritual growth right now? Why?

10. How can your community group help each other “keep in step with the Spirit” this week? What does mutual encouragement look like when it comes to reshaping our affections together?

Closing Prayer and Reflection

Read *Psalms 37:3–5* aloud together.

Then pray:

“Lord, retrain our hearts to desire what You desire. Teach us to delight in You until lesser loves lose their power.”

Think daily on *Colossians 3:1–4* this week, asking the Spirit to “reset the compass” of your heart toward Christ. Text members throughout the week to encourage each other in this.