

Navigating the Tough Issues With God, Your Family, and Community

“PURITY in ALL Things”

Psalms 24:1-6, Romans 12:2; 1 Corinthians 10:13

Policeman: saw someone spit on his hamburger. Did he still eat it? NO

Bad batch of? would you still eat it? (defiled? Contaminated? Impure)

Purity in Soul, Mind, Speech, Action

Read Psalm 24:1-6

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who live in it. = [us = we are the Lord's]

² For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the rivers.

³ Who may ascend onto the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place?

⁴ One who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to deceit

And has not sworn deceitfully. ⁵ He will receive a blessing from the Lord

And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

⁶ This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—even Jacob. *Selah*

Purity is holiness in action. God demands that we be holy: 1 Peter 1:16 “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” HOW?

(Communicable attributes)

1. Purity of Soul Purity is from God Prov. 20:9 “Who can say **I** have made my heart pure, I am clean from sin?”

- Only Christ can clean our lives through His blood. Our purity comes from Christ's cleansing at salvation.
 - Romans 3:23-25 “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.”
 - 1 John 1:7 “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
 - 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Our righteousness, our PURITY is based in HIS purity – UNION w
- **HOW? How are we made pure?**
 - The **Holy Spirit regenerates** us (and brings life to a dead heart). Titus 3:5-6 “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”
- **Now**, He lives in us to give us a holy heart. **Sanctification** (the process of being transformed into Christ's image, into holiness & righteousness.)
 - 2 Thess. 2:13 “God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through **sanctification** by the Spirit and faith in the truth.”
 - Romans 6:19 “I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented the parts of your body as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your body's parts as slaves to righteousness, resulting in **sanctification**.”
 - 1 Thess. 4:7 “For God has not called us for impurity, but in **sanctification**.”
 - 2 Cor. 7:1 “Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”

2. Purity of Mind (Thought) = “heart” Prov. 4:23 “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” Our minds/“hearts” determine the course of our lives. **Will we choose to be holy/pure or not**

-Luke 6:45 “The good person, out of the good treasure of his heart, brings forth what is good; and the evil person out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.”

-Mt. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

-Ps. 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

-Jas. 4:8 "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

God has equipped us and blessed us with His Spirit to **HELP** us pursue purity in our minds/hearts: HOW?

- A. To focus on God daily through prayer
- B. To read His Word daily
- C. To recognize that left to your own desires, you will always drift into what is selfish and impure. – That you need to confess daily & specifically and ASK God to fill you daily with His Spirit (Eph. 5:18) for sp. Power
- D. We NEED to choose holiness. We need to choose purity. We need to choose righteousness.
-We kid ourselves if we think we don't have choices. That we are "slaves" to our own passions. We can choose

-Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this ^{to}world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may ^{to}prove/discern what the will of God is, [NIV: "test and approve God's Will" ESV: "that by testing you may discern what is the will of God is"] – that which is good and ^{to}acceptable and perfect."

Prayer: God change my heart. God give me a holy mind. God help me to think as you think. God help me to learn Your Word, to Pray you very WORD:

Philippians 4:8-9 "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is ^{to}lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you."

3. Purity of (Speech) – The Lord wants us to control our tongue, to use our words to give life, not destroy it

-Ephesians 4:29-30 "Let no ^{to}unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if *there is any good word* for edification ^{to}according to the need *of the moment*, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear.³⁰ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, ^{to}by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

What we say, how we treat those around us reveal our heart's TRUE condition: Spirit vs. Flesh

-Matthew 15:10, 18 "Hear and understand! ¹¹ *It is not what enters the mouth that defiles the person, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles the person.*" But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and those things defile the person."

-James 1:19 "Now everyone must be quick to hear, **slow to speak, and slow to anger**"

IF Christ is in YOU, then He has given purity to your soul. The Spirit is helping you have purity of mind/heart through your daily sanctification. **This should translate immediately to having purity of your Speech.** Your ^{to} words should reflect your attitude to be a blessing and not a curse to those whom you speak.

4. Purity of Action - what is the fruit of your life? If Christ is IN you, if you have UNION w/Him then there will be spiritual fruit in your life.

-Galatians 5:19-24 "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, indecent behavior, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hostilities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who ^{to}belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

Ps. 24:3 Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? The One who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to deceit.

-Christ has called us as His children to pursue purity – to imitate Him in all things. Christlikeness!

Notice, Paul's lists always begins with Sexual Purity = 1 Thess. 4:3-4 "For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality, that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification** and honor."

Temptation 1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, ^{to}so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

APPLICATION:

- What is in my life that is keeping me from God? What habit? What sin? What relationship? What temptation?
- Who knows me well enough to ask me hard questions about my life? Who knows my temptations?
- Who can I trust with the messy parts of my life?
- What do you need to **start** today to help you be successful in your spiritual life?

****This message is not bring shame on you. God is NOT a God of shame, but redemption!**

This message is to give you HOPE! Hope in Christ! Hope in the Spirit. Hope that you are not alone!!

*God is a God of forgiveness, IF you feel conviction this morning, then **repent**. Ask God to forgive you 1Jo1:9

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you, **empower you for purity in all areas of your life

*Ask God to give you boldness to **invite** people into your weakness (**God is perfected in our weakness** 2 Cor. 12)

*Remember, YOU are with a biblical community that is full of broken people!!! Just like you.

Ephesians 4:23-24 “**you are to be renewed in the spirit of your minds,** ²⁴ **and to put on the new ⁱⁿself, which ^{is} in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”**

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that God gives us a part of His holiness, His purity? How does He do that? Through which person of the Trinity?
2. If God requires us to be Holy (1 Peter 1:16), can we be perfectly holy? Even if we are full of God's Holy Spirit?
3. What is the key to being pure in our minds? How do actively pursue holiness in our minds?
4. What is the more difficult: to not think bad thoughts or to not say bad words/hurtful words?
5. What is God's standard for sexual purity? Before Marriage? (1 Corinthians 6:12-19, Ch. 7). What is God's standard for sexual purity within marriage? (Hebrews 13:4). What does this verse instruct?