



The Pursuit of Purity

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

February 5, 2017

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying . . . Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. – Matthew 5:1-8

1. In Search of Purity

The term “pure” is the Greek word from which we get “*catharsis*,” which means a cleansing of the mind or emotions. The word basically has two meanings. First, “to make pure by cleansing from dirt, filth, or contamination” and was used to describe metals that had been refined by fire. Second, it refers to being “unmixed, as having no double allegiance.” Warren Wiersbe writes that the “basic idea is that of integrity, singleness of heart, as opposed to duplicity, or a divided heart.”

2. The Pursuit of Purity

Cp. Mt. 23:25-28; 15:8; Prov. 4:23; 21:2; 1 Sam. 16:7; 2 Chron. 16:9

3. The Problem of Purity . . . The Heart

- The _____ of the Heart. – Jeremiah 17:9
- The _____ of the Heart. – Jeremiah 17:9
- The _____ of the Heart. – Jeremiah 17:10
- The _____ of the Heart. – Jeremiah 24:7

4. Biblical Pathways to Purity

- Admit our _____.
- Ask God for a _____.
- Pray for _____.
- _____ to God.
- _____ and _____ on the Word of God.
- Avoid _____ and _____.
- Watch what we _____.
- _____ is wonderful.
- Find a _____.
- Focus on our _____.

Truth for Life

For the week of February 5, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. When you think of purity, what comes to mind? How is purity accomplished in the thing that comes to mind? How would you measure purity? How would you maintain purity? Is it even possible? If not, why not?
2. Purity is related to guiltless, blameless, or innocent behavior. In Exodus 23:7, an innocent person is portrayed as someone who is righteous as measured by the demands of the law. Hence, before they can engage in any ceremonial activity, God's people must be consecrated or had to sanctify themselves. How did they do that?
 - Exodus 19:10
 - Joshua 7:13-23
 - 1 Sam 16:5
 - Job 1:5
3. In the New Testament, there is little emphasis on ritual purity. Rather, the focus is on moral purity or purification. Consider the following verses and identify what is involved. In each, what is the context, who is involved, what is the instruction, how are they to carry it out?
 - 2 Corinthians 11:1-3
 - Titus 2:3-5
 - Philippians 4:8-9
 - 1 Tim 5:17-25 (22)
 - 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 (6)
 - 1 Peter 3:1-4

Action Step Challenge . . .

Consider your personal purity. How do you measure up? Where are your weak or vulnerable areas? What is your besetting sin (Hebrews 12:1)? The problem with purity is not outward conformity, but inward transformation. The lack of purity is a problem of the heart.

1. Reflect upon the Biblical Pathways to Purity on the front of the notes.
2. Is there a step that needs to be put into practice? A discipline that needs to be focused upon? What step will you take to pursue purity?

Memory Verse

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. – Matthew 5:8



The Pursuit of Purity

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

February 5, 2017

And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying . . . Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. – Matthew 5:1-8

1. In Search of Purity

The term “pure” is the Greek word from which we get “*catharsis*,” which means a cleansing of the mind or emotions. The word basically has two meanings. First, “to make pure by cleansing from dirt, filth, or contamination” and was used to describe metals that had been refined by fire. Second, it refers to being “unmixed, as having no double allegiance.” Warren Wiersbe writes that the “basic idea is that of integrity, singleness of heart, as opposed to duplicity, or a divided heart.”

2. The Pursuit of Purity

Cp. Mt. 23:25-28; 15:8; Prov. 4:23; 21:2; 1 Sam. 16:7; 2 Chron. 16:9

3. The Problem of Purity . . . The Heart

- a. The **Deceitfulness** of the Heart. – Jeremiah 17:9
- b. The **Disease** of the Heart. – Jeremiah 17:9
- c. The **Diagnosis** of the Heart. – Jeremiah 17:10
- d. The **Doctor** of the Heart. – Jeremiah 24:7

4. Biblical Pathways to Purity

- o Admit our **sinful impurity**.
- o Ask God for a **new heart**.
- o Pray for **purity**.
- o **Draw close** to God.
- o **Memorize** and **meditate** on the Word of God.
- o Avoid **complaining** and **arguing**.
- o Watch what we **watch**.
- o **Waiting** is wonderful.
- o Find a **faithful friend**.

- o Focus on our **future hope**.

Truth for Life

For the week of February 5, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. When you think of purity, what comes to mind? How is purity accomplished in the thing that comes to mind? How would you measure purity? How would you maintain purity? Is it even possible? If not, why not?
2. Purity is related to guiltless, blameless, or innocent behavior. In Exodus 23:7, an innocent person is portrayed as someone who is righteous as measured by the demands of the law. Hence, before they can engage in any ceremonial activity, God's people must be consecrated or had to sanctify themselves. How did they do that?
 - o Exodus 19:10
 - o Joshua 7:13-23
 - o 1 Sam 16:5
 - o Job 1:5
3. In the New Testament, there is little emphasis on ritual purity. Rather, the focus is on moral purity or purification. Consider the following verses and identify what is involved. In each, what is the context, who is involved, what is the instruction, how are they to carry it out?
 - o 2 Corinthians 11:1-3
 - o Titus 2:3-5
 - o Philippians 4:8-9
 - o 1 Tim 5:17-25 (22)
 - o 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 (6)
 - o 1 Peter 3:1-4

Action Step Challenge . . .

Consider your personal purity. How do you measure up? Where are your weak or vulnerable areas? What is your besetting sin (Hebrews 12:1)? The problem with purity is not outward conformity, but inward transformation. The lack of purity is a problem of the heart.

1. Reflect upon the Biblical Pathways to Purity on the front of the notes.
2. Is there a step that needs to be put into practice? A discipline that needs to be focused upon? What step will you take to pursue purity?

Memory Verse

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. – Matthew 5:8