

Purity Is Vital

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Psalm 24:3-4 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath **clean hands, and a pure heart**; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

2 Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your **pure minds** by way of remembrance:

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a **pure heart**, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with **pure conscience**, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

- I. The subject is purity, or the lack of it, in the churches, and in the individual lives of those who profess to be Christians.
 - A. It is the root of the all the problems that everyone wants to talk about concerning the churches and Christianity in general.
 - B. Purity means clean, clear, not mixed with any other matter; it means free from moral defilement, clean, chaste,
 - C. So when it comes to a pure heart, a pure mind, pure lips, a pure conscience, it includes the defilement and pollution of this world that enters our minds and our thoughts, and our hearts through our eyes and our ears.
 - D. The churches are full of uncleanness and moral filthiness, because the people who sit in the pews are full of it.
 - E. The stench of all this rottenness is everywhere and it is the reason the cause of Christ is suffering so in our generation; no one wants to get near it for the stink of it all.
 - F. Purity is now scoffed at and held in contempt by most that sit church pews.
 - G. Uncleanness is defended and pitied while purity is counted as some kind of evil.
 - H. David in his prayer of deep repentance referred at least seven times to being clean: blot out, wash me, cleanse me, purge me and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow, blot out all mine iniquities, create in me a clean heart O God.
 1. Renew a right spirit within me...we will not have a right spirit when we are defiled and unclean inside.
 - I. Being clean is vital to our spiritual welfare, our Christian testimony, to our posterity, to God's work on this earth.
 - J. It is not an option, but a necessity, and without clean hearts, clean minds, clean consciences, clean hands, and clean mouths all is lost.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary

IMPURE, a. *L. impurus; in and purus, pure.*

1. Not pure; foul; feculent; tintured; mixed or impregnated with extraneous substance; as impure water or air; etc.
2. Obscene; as impure **language or ideas**.
3. Unchaste; lewd; unclean; as **impure actions**.

4. Defiled by sin or guilt; unholy; as persons.

5. Unhallowed; unholy; as things.

Impure	Diluted	Gross	Soiled
Polluted	Dirty	Infected	Sordid
Unclean	Debased	Sullied	Tainted
Defiled	Feculent	Nasty	Unchaste
Adulterated	Filthy	Obscene	Vile
Corrupt	Foul	Profaned	Vitiated
Contaminated	Immodest	Smutty	

- II. How can we be so blind to uncleanness in our heart, our mind, our thoughts, our lips?
- A. If moral uncleanness had a smell to it like physical uncleanness does, it would make it much easier to avoid.
 - B. If ungodliness smelled like the death it produces more people might turn from it to live godly.
 - C. If worldliness stank like the rotten fruit it bears it would not be so popular among so many who profess to be Christians.
 - D. If one touch of any of these rotten, polluted, defiling things made us as sick as salmonella we would be more careful and attentive about their entry into our minds and hearts and the minds and hearts of our children.
 - E. It's death! And it is rottenness and foulness and pollution that will leave its effects on us and our children as long as we live on this earth.
- III. The pollution is more than just a few selected things that we put on a "thou shalt not" list.
- A. The pollution is everywhere and we are immersed in it.
 - B. We ARE going to be exposed to immodesty, nudity, pornography, immorality, profanity, the hellish music from the mind of Satan himself, and we have to learn to deal with it as good soldier would deal with the enemy who is assailing him on the battlefield.
 - C. The only way we can overcome the pollution of this ungodly world is to fill our mind with the Word of God and with God himself.

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, (speaking of Christ sanctifying his bride, the church)

- D. Our minds and hearts cannot be full of God when we give place to the devil and his polluted and corrupt images and music and sensual suggestions.
 - 1. People who profess to be Christians would not want to be seen entering or leaving a liquor store, or a prostitute's house
 - 2. But we slide ride up to the devil's table of Hollywood and Netflix and all the other avenues of delivery of the trash with all the rest of the world and take our fill just like they do.
- E. All that is filth and corruption, but the worst corruption is that which comes from the wisdom of the world and its philosophies.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

1. The nudity and profanity that is on TV, the Internet, Facebook, TikTok, all the advertisements, the billboards, the checkout magazine racks, is not the most corrupt and poisonous thing to your soul.
 2. The most poisonous, noxious, defiling, polluting things are those which you swallow down from the world's philosophies.
 3. The devil has the microphone now and everyone is listening and I am crying aloud the warning, as a watchman, but I don't know if anyone is listening.
 4. In the best churches we have left, the world's philosophies about the most important things of life are what most of the people in the pews subscribe to.
- F. I can only preach to those who will listen.
1. I have found after over 40 years of preaching and watching other men preach that people sitting in what are called Bible-believing churches will listen to the world's counsel 100 to 1 before they will listen and heed God's counsel, from a preacher, or from the Bible itself.
- G. And their minds are polluted; their hearts are polluted, and they are not pure in mind or heart, or conscience.
1. They are not even pure in conversation; they either use straight-out profanity, or they use minced oaths, where you just change one letter in the profane word and go ahead and say it.
- H. This worldly pollution has defiled the way most of the people in the churches think, both young and old.
1. About marriage; about rearing and training children; about what is most important in life.
 2. About what is right and wrong in all matters of life.
 3. About respect and reverence for anyone or anything holy; now cleanliness is out and filthiness is in.
- I. I said the devil has the microphone and he does; every bit of worldly advice starts with denying established truth, sources of truth, conventional wisdom, millennia of human experience, and most of all replacing God's ways with sinful, perverted, polluted men's ways.
1. Here is just the beginning of an ad I read today concerning how to fix a marriage:

“Here's EXACTLY how God healed my marriage. And no, it was not because I followed the typical church advice to men: Love her more like Jesus. Pray harder because God is using this to build your character. Buy her flowers. Send her love notes. Kiss her more. Read the Bible together. I was already trying those things! They weren't working! I was going crazy trying to “love my wife”, when in reality all I was doing was pushing her away. And no matter how hard I prayed, I was stuck and our marriage was hurting. I didn't know it, but all I was doing was NEEDING my wife. I was whiny. I was manipulative. I was trying to perform all these romantic tasks so that I could get what I needed from her.”

- J. What a bunch of lies! GOD healed his marriage because he turned from all the “typical church advice?” ...such as love her more like Jesus loves???
- K. So praying did not work for him and loving did not work for him and the Word of God did not work for him, and the church, the pillar and ground of the truth did not help him, but God healed his marriage when he “found himself” and came up with his own answers? (that he will share with you if you will pay him \$7.90)
- L. Some of you heard only part of that and you are probably sitting there thinking, “Well,, there is some truth in what he said.”
1. That's exactly what happened to Eve in the garden dear friend.

- 2. It is the devil's way, his method, his deceitfulness.
- M. God never starts by directing you away from the church, or the Word of God.

- IV. The uncleanness is very deeply imbedded now and I do not really know what God could do to cleanse and sanctify the churches overall.
- A. No one is going to separate themselves from this world, and as long as they will not separate, God cannot sanctify them.
 - B. As long as their eyes and ears are tuned in to what this ungodly world has to say God can do nothing with their adulterated, contaminated, infected, profane, sordid, unchaste minds and hearts.
 - C. Unless you quit looking and quit listening to the counsel of the ungodly of this world, and start getting your answers from the Word of God ONLY, there is really no hope for you, because you cannot be pure and clean and holy before God.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (THAT is the world)

- D. The world we are talking about is every thing on this planet that contradicts God's will and God's nature. Every thought, every idea, every word, every action that opposes God.
- E. I believe that Jesus Christ IS cleansing his true bride, the true church right now, and that those who have ears to hear are purifying themselves in the hope of his coming.

1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

- F. The rest will be lost, left behind, to continue in their unclean and filthy worldly religious game they like to play; heaven is not their home; this world is where they fit in now, and the lake of fire will be their home for eternity.

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

- G. It won't take to long for the stench to start manifesting itself, though, with no salt, no light, no restraint, no cleaning agent of any kind, the world is going to become a very nasty and filthy place quickly.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- H. How clean do you think you are?
- I. What if the lid could be taken off and everyone could smell what is in your soul?
- J. There is a way to tell and here it is:

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

James 4:8-10 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

- K. The mail has been delivered; whether you open it and read it or count it as junk and throw it straight in your trash can is up to you.
- L. Every one who hears this, and all of you here tonight will give account before God for what you have heard.