

# *A Pure Conscience*

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Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

PURIFYING, pp. Removing foreign or heterogeneous matter; cleansing from pollution; fining; making clear.

- I. Much of the purifying in the Bible concerns purifying of the flesh.
  - A. Old Testament laws of purification were all concerned with cleansing of the flesh.
    1. Leprosy and other diseases
    2. A woman after childbirth
    3. After touching a dead body
  - B. The purifying of the flesh is by washing with water.
    1. We remove the filth and corruption of the world and our own flesh taking a bath.
  - C. Healing from sickness is a process of purification that God built into us by which our body cleanses itself of the foreign toxins or microbes that have managed to get past our natural defenses while walking in this unclean world.
  - D. This is all in the physical realm and we are all very familiar with this kind of purification, or cleansing.
  - E. Most normal people are pretty sensitive about their physical cleanliness and try to maintain it.
  - F. Only those with an unclean spirit are not affected by filth, corruption, and pollution in themselves or in others.
    1. They are not just “different” or careless, there is something spiritually wrong there.
- II. The New Testament focuses more on the inward purity, while not ignoring the outward.
  - A. The Old Testament physical circumcision was a shadow of the New Testament circumcision of the heart.
    1. It always carried that significance, but it is made much clearer in the New Testament.
  - B. Likewise, the Old Testament laws concerning purification and cleanliness were shadows of the New Testament sanctification of our body as the temple of the Holy Spirit of God, and our heart, mind, and soul as the likeness of Christ on earth.
- III. The purity of heart, mind, and conscience is a most important thing for the child of God in any generation, but particularly in these last days.
  - A. It is a matter that is not being dealt with much at all in the churches.
  - B. Even when it is dealt with there are degrees of purity that men have settled upon as good enough that fall far short of the mark set by the Word of God.
  - C. “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...” falls on deaf ears, or is not comprehended by the hearers for what it really means.

- D. It is hard to recognize spiritual uncleanness when it is presented so pretty and appealing to our senses.
  - 1. But our adversary is the master of making the evil look like good and good look like evil.
- E. “I just can’t see the harm in this or that...” is the indicator of someone who has lost their sense of smell for the foul spirit.
- F. When someone has an attitude that says, “Let’s put the Bible aside and just reason about this and think this out...” they are not a bible believer.
- G. It is the little things of the world that contaminate our heart, our mind, our conscience, and our life.
- H. It doesn’t take a great leap into ungodliness to corrupt yourself, or your children, or others around you.
  - 1. It just takes a little dose at a time of the world; a little here, a little there; a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.
  - 2. It just takes a little time spent with people who do not love God, do not serve God, and who, in reality, live as if He doesn’t exist.
- I. Spiritual and moral impurity, which is uncleanness, is contagious and it gets in our soul just like a virus, bacteria, or germ gets into our body.
  - 1. We are not aware that it is happening and we only find out later when the fever and the sickness begin.
  - 2. It is implanted in our mind in microscopic amounts, and left there to germinate.
  - 3. It slips into our heart little by little by simply being around others who have it in their hearts. (desires, accompanied by feelings and emotions)
- J. The contamination shows up among other things as drama, strife, frustration, anger, bitterness, hatred, outward uncleanness, adultery, fornication, and even murder.

IV. We must apply ourselves and strive to be pure in heart, mind, and conscience.

- A. This is clear in the New Testament Scriptures.
- B. The only way to have the peace of God is to have a conscience that is void of offense before God and man.

Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

- 1. If you have a conscience void of offense before God you won’t have problems with others who are trying to live that way, too.
- 2. If you claim to have a clear conscience before God, but you have contempt in your heart for those who live by higher standards than you do, you are fooling yourself.
- C. The only way to accomplish that is by applying the blood of Christ to your heart.

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- 1. There is nothing like being vividly reminded of the price Jesus paid for your soul – his very blood.

Hebrews 9:13-14 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

2. It will dissolve all your negative feelings toward others.
  3. It will still your upset heart like baking soda settles an upset stomach.
  4. The sight of blood is always a very startling thing and brings an immediate soberness to any situation.
  5. How can your heart continue in its gall and bitterness when it is sprinkled with the blood of Christ?
  6. Our conscience is purified with the blood of Christ when it is applied to our heart.
- D. Our mind is purified with the Word of God.
1. Those unclean thoughts that are fueled by the feelings of the heart will be diminished away when we start reading, studying, and meditating on the Scriptures.
  2. This cannot happen without a separating from all that is opposed to God and all that is contrary to his ways.
  3. Until we truly make up our mind to follow Christ and leave the world behind we will have no peace, and no assurance, and no stability in our life.
- E. All our troubles and burdens are because we will not come out from among them and be separate.

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

1. If we do not come out from among them and live separate from the world we will surely harvest a crop one day that we are not expecting.
- F. If you are a true child of God you will have a desire to be clean before God.

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

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;

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: