

Purity

Purity begins at the cross.

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August 17, 2016*

"Blessed are the pure in heart..."

Purity in the Hebrew is the word "*hagneia*". It means the quality of cleanliness. It is from the word "*hagnos*", which means clean. It's synonymous with: innocent, modest, perfect, chaste, and clean; and of course, pure.

I. Purity begins at the Cross!

A. Hebrews 9:13-14

The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

B. Hebrews 10:22

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Purity is truly a gift from the Lord! You cannot obtain it by your own effort no matter what people may think. It's acquired by faith!

II. Hindrances to our purity.

A. Titus 1:15-16

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. **They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him**. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Wow!... What are the things that "corrupt" and cause unbelief?...bitterness?...unforgiveness?...the deceptive teachings of this world?(Titus 1:14)...pride?

B. Titus 2:9-10

Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, **so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.**

-A pure lifestyle makes our gospel attractive!

-By my life I point people in Christ direction or I'm leaving them with a confusing message. Show people Christ in you!

III. The grace of God teaches us to say "NO!"

A. Titus 2:11-12

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. **It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions**, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,”

-The grace of God teaches us to say "NO" to the impure and corrupted influences of the world and the flesh! So that we may live self-controlled, upright and godly....right now!!

-The power to go from impure to pure, ungodly to godly, corrupted and unbelieving to pure and full of faith is all in my choice?... YUP!

-Because the Bible says His grace has appeared to ALL men! So, ALL men can experience it as they say "No" to the world and "Yes" to God!

-And to those who say "yes" the Lord promises that we shall be redeemed and purified unto Himself and eager to do good. (Titus 2:14) Completely opposite of the people in Titus 1:16

IV. Purity is maintained through relationship!

A. Psalm 119:9

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word."

-Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey me." Bottom line, folks! Yet, his Grace is sufficient for us and He helps us in our time of need. A contrite heart, the Lord will not despise!

-Let us continue to obtain the perfection of which Christ first obtained us!

Blessings!