

Prayer Conference, Evangelical Institute

Message: "All In"

Text: Matthew 5:8

INTRODUCTION

1. A failure to define and understand terms will inevitably result in a failure to communicate clearly.

WORDS AND PHRASES ("Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.")

1. "Blessed" means "to be approved of, or to find approval."
2. "In heart" refers to an inner quality or condition. Cf. Ps 51:10.
3. "Pure" is the internal 'heart-condition' to which God gives His approval.
 - a. "Who are the pure in heart? ... "those who are mourning about the impurity of their hearts." ...
M.Lloyd-Jones
 - b. Synonyms and explanations: (1) "sincere"; (2) "being fully committed" (Matt 6:33); and (3) "ALL IN".
4. "Shall See God" promises a kind of fellowship with God in this life that's possible for less-than-fully-sanctified people who are joined to Jesus Christ, and who are 'all in'.
This is a relationship so direct, so immediate, and so real that it deserves the name "vision." Of course, this promise also refers to our seeing God in heaven.

PURITY AND IMPURITY

Additional Insights and Pictures

1. It's very challenging to make (synthesize) something in the laboratory that is pure.

Great Axioms

Unless a substance is pure enough, unless it can avoid other substances from 'mixing' with it, it can't perform the function(s) for which it has been created.

Unless WE have a pure heart, unless we avoid those impurities that will cause our hearts to be 'mixed,' then we won't fulfill all the purposes for which we have been created in Christ.

*Having a pure heart, ... having a heart that's 'all in' for Christ, sets us FREE to **be** the persons we were created to **be**, and to fulfill the **purposes** that God has prepared for us to walk in. (Cf. Eph 2:10)*

APPLICATION: GROWING IN PURITY

Battling the Enemies of Purity

1. Luke 14: 34 - 35 - Jesus uses 'salt' to illustrate a principle.

2. Unwelcome enemies of our purity - (residents & intruders) - work to incapacitate us by sustaining a **mixture** in our hearts. We need to remove the residents, and resist the intruders (with the help of the Holy Spirit).
3. Three enemies are singled out by John in 1 John 2:15 - 17: the world, the flesh and the devil.
4. The “world” or “world-system”
 - a. Philosophies - individualism, adventurism, moralism, materialism, secular humanism, nihilism, relativism, post-modernism, liberalism, feminism, various political genres, and numerous false religions.
 - b. Culture - a powerful intruder. An example of how technology can impact our hearts - our smart phones. Book: *12 Ways Your Phone Is Changing You* by Tony Reinke.
5. The “flesh”
 - a. How do we know we’re ‘all in’? Log our choices in the “dynamite” arena of the flesh.
6. The “devil”

“Watch and pray so that you will not enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak. (Mark 14:38).”

A “Purity ‘Exercise Plan’”: Six Intentional Steps for Building Increased Purity

Step One: Live close to Christ. Abide in Him. (Jn. 15:7) Establish a **daily** discipline of studying and meditating on God’s Word; and a **daily** discipline of prayer. Book: *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller.

Step Two: Make a habit of asking your Heavenly Father to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:13.

Step Three: Periodically conduct a “self-interrogation” concerning the choices you’re making. (Some questions suggested by D.A. Carson).

- What do I think about when my mind slips into neutral?
- How much sympathy do I have for deception?
- How much sympathy do I have for shady humor - no matter how funny?
- Do I ever engage in “voyeurism?”
- To what do I pay consistent allegiance?
- What do I want more than anything else?
- What and whom do I love?
- To what extent are my actions and words reflections of what’s in my heart?
- How often do my actions and words constitute a cover-up for what’s really in my heart

Step Four: Live with good associations (1 Cor. 15:33)

Step Five: Answer - “How have I grown through the things I have suffered?” (Cf. Hebrews 12: 1 - 11)

Step Six: “FOCUS HOPE” (1 Cor. 13:13; Col 3:1-2; 1 John 3: 2-3).

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)