

The Path to Purity

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The Words of Jesus

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:3-10

The Ultimate Description of Pure... Is the God We Worship

- Absolutely without impurity, wrong, or sin.
- Gloriously different.
- Utterly separate from all things tainted and unclean (which is most of what we see and touch and experience)

In an impure world, we are stunned (and even confused) by a God who is pure beyond our comprehension!

I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Isaiah 6:1-4 (A vision of purity)

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Isaiah 6:5 (A response to the glory and purity of God)

What Happens in Isaiah's Heart and Life When He Encounters God in His Infinite Purity?

- He becomes aware of his own sin and unclean life.
- He sees the sin and spiritual darkness of the world around him.
- He is in awe of the glory and majesty of God!

The First Problem With God's Absolute Purity and Holiness

1. The holiness of God means He is too pure to let any sin near Him.

Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing....

(Habakkuk 1:13)

The good news... God has dealt with our
sin fully and completely on the cross!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that
in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Second Problem With God's Absolute Purity and Holiness

2. The purity and holiness of God strip away all of our excuses and rationalizations for sin and rebellion.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

(James 1:13-15)

The good news... we don't need excuses...
we need to confess, repent, and
fall into the savior's arms!

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:8-9)

The Big Challenge That Comes With Absolute Purity and Holiness

3. God calls us to be holy...just as He is holy!

I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. (Leviticus 11:44)

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do... (1 Peter 1:14-15)

It is hard to live and grow in purity when
the current of our world is becoming
more and more impure.

How Do I Grow In Purity?

1. Pray passionately for growth in purity...confessing failures, struggles, and the need for God's amazing grace and power.

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

(1 Thessalonians 4:7)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

2. Identify, name, and admit your sins...commit to take all sin seriously, even the “little sins” and the “secret” sins.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your
sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

(Psalm 51:3-4)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

3. Look honestly at the consequences of your sins...admit that all sin breaks God's heart, hurts us, and impacts others.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction...

(Galatians 6:7-8)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

4. Go to war on sin...make serious, targeted, laser-precision attacks on the sin areas of your life! Don't become comfortable with your sin, don't just be bothered, but hate your sin the way God hates it.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these...

(Colossians 3:5-8)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

5. Realize that there is a power much greater than your sin and temptation...His name is Jesus, and He is with you always in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

(Romans 6:12-14)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

6. Read, study, memorize, and agree with the Bible...God's Word is your sword for the battle.

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word...

I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

(Psalm 119:9 & 11)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

7. Become a student of Satan's tactics and enticements...in general, specifically in your life, and in your family history.

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...

(1 Peter 5:8-9)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

8. Reduce your exposure to the things that cause temptation in your life...and run when you must.

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

(2 Timothy 2:22)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

9. Dare to set up radical and serious systems of accountability...even when it hurts.

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

(Daniel 2:17-18)

How Do I Grow In Purity?

10. Embrace grace when you struggle...and rejoice as you take steps of faithfulness

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

(Ephesians 2:4-5)