

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

7. Purity



Introduction

We have been looking at some of the qualities or characteristics that God wants us to have in our lives. So far we have spoken about patience, faithfulness, truthfulness and contentment. There are many other qualities we could study, but the final one we will learn about in this series is purity.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

- ◆ What do you think it means in Matthew 5:8 by 'pure in heart'?
- ◆ What are the things that make us unclean or impure according to Jesus in Mark 7:15-23?

Four of the things that Jesus mentions in Mark 7 are about our sexual relationships. God's standards are different from the standards of our culture. We are not to follow the standards of our culture anymore, but the standards of God's Word. Read Romans 12:2.

In the box below there are questions suitable for those who are single and those who are married. Choose the questions that are appropriate for your group. If you have a group of both single and married people, perhaps you can divide into two smaller groups to discuss the questions.

For young people and singles

- What are God's standards for young men and women before marriage? Look up the following verses to help you find the answers: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Ephesians 5:3-5, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20,
- What should you do if your boy or girl friend wants to have a sexual relationship before you are married? How can you keep yourself pure?

For married people

- What are God's standards for married people? Look up the following verses: Matthew 5:27-28, 31-32, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 7:10-11
- The enemy is constantly trying to destroy marriages and families. He hates marriage as it was created by God. However God wants your marriage relationship to deepen and grow. In what practical ways can you develop your relationship with your husband or wife?

- ◆ Jesus said that evil things come from inside us. The problem begins in our minds! How can we keep our minds clean, especially from sexual impurity?

Conclusion

The Book of Revelation tells us that nothing impure can enter heaven, only those who have cleansed themselves with the precious blood of Jesus. As believers we have been washed clean, so let's guard our hearts from everything that is impure. This means we need to be careful what we see and what we hear.

If you watch impure things on the computer or television, or look at them in magazines and books, then those images and words will stay in your mind. The only way is to guard what you see and hear, and be disciplined, with the help of the Holy Spirit, what you think about in your mind. David prayed, "Create in me a pure heart, O God." Let's make that our desire too.

