

What is A Pure Heart?

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

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:

Psalm 24:3-5 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

- I. If having a pure heart means you never have a bad thought, then it seems there would be no hope for any of us.
 - A. We are talking about the heart here, not the mind.
 - B. A pure mind is a mind that only works on what is true, and is not polluted with lies.
 - C. The heart is the seat of emotion and feeling, but it is also where affections and loves are determined.
 - D. This is why the first and greatest commandment is that we *love* the Lord our God with all our HEART, soul, and mind.
 - E. When our heart's affection is set on the Lord above everything else, we will have a pure heart, because we will not entertain any thoughts or imaginations that are against Him in any way.
 - F. Only when the prevailing influence in our life is our love for God and our desire to please Him do we have a pure heart.

- II. The pure heart can be identified by what the word "pure" means.

PURE, a.

1. Separate from all heterogeneous or extraneous matter; clear; free from mixture; as pure water; pure clay; pure sand; pure air; pure silver of gold. Pure wine is very scarce.
2. Genuine; real; true; incorrupt; unadulterated; as pure religion. James 1.
3. Unmixed; separate from any other subject or from every thing foreign.

- A. A pure heart is a heart that is single, fixed, not changing, not wandering.
- B. A pure heart is a heart that is not looking and yearning, but is settled and committed, and satisfied in the object of its love.
- C. The heart is pure when it is bequeathed to God as the object of its love forever.
- D. When a man and a woman marry they are vowing to keep their hearts pure for one another until they die.
 1. They are no longer looking for love in another, and will not respond to the wooing of another, if their heart is really pure.

- III. A pure heart is set on doing right, with no desire to do unrighteousness.

- A. The heart is not pure as long as there is any yearning toward sin, or the world, anything that is opposed to God and his ways.
- B. Temptation is the enticement to sin, but a pure heart will not entertain those thoughts that are attempting to justify it, or formulating a plan to obtain the unlawful desire.
- C. Those temptations to unrighteousness will be frequently presented to our minds, because we are in a spiritual conflict and we must expect the enemy to try to overcome us.
- D. The difference between a pure heart and one that is not is that the pure heart will not turn away from God, but will persevere out of their love for God and their concern for his honor.
- E. A pure heart is not easily drawn away into worldly and vain things.
 - 1. Because it is fixed on God.
 - 2. It does not find the foolishness of this world's wisdom to be fascinating or interesting.
 - 3. The pure heart says, "I have found him whom my soul loveth, and I held him, and I will not let him go." Song 3:4
 - 4. The world may wink at you, but you do not wink back.
 - 5. The world may flirt with you, but you do not flirt back.
- F. A pure heart has no other loves that compete with God, who is the One whom their soul loveth.
 - 1. There is not a conflict going on in the affections of the heart.
 - 2. A pure heart makes for a good conscience.
 - 3. If the conscience is troubled the heart is not pure.

IV. So, is your heart pure?

- A. The question is not, "Are you ever tempted to do wrong?"
- B. The question is not, "Do you ever have bad thoughts?"
- C. The question is, "Is your heart pure?"
- D. How do you respond to temptation?
- E. How do you respond to the emotion and excitement and wooing of the world, the flesh, and the devil?
- F. Is Christ your Rock, or are you wobbly?
- G. If given the opportunity, would you turn your back on God and his people, and go ahead and take what you want?
- H. Would you cross that line if you had the chance?
- I. This is how you know if your heart is pure or not.
- J. The Scripture is pretty clear on this one that it is necessary to ever dwell with God in eternity.

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- K. God is a jealous God and will not share your heart with another love.