

A PASSION FOR PURITY

Matthew 5:8

August 31, 2008 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. America is obsessed with purity.
 - 1. We insist on pure water—last year American's spent half a billion dollars on water purifiers.
 - 2. We insist on pure air—most states have no smoking ordinances in public places.
 - 3. We insist on pure food—many people are all about organic foods without pesticides and fertilizers and beef never fed growth hormones, etc.
- B. There is one purity, however, we tend to overlook.
 - 1. Jesus mentioned it in his sixth beatitude—Matt. 5:8.
 - 2. What does it mean to be pure in heart?

I. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE PURE IN HEART?

- A. The word "heart" refers to who we really are on the inside.
 - 1. Jesus said what we are on the inside eventually comes up on the outside—Matthew 12:34.
 - 2. God knows what we are like on the inside, even if no one else does—I Samuel 16:7.
- B. The word "pure" refers to our motives. Why we do what we do?
 - 1. God is concerned as much with why we do something as he is with what we do—Matthew 6:1.
 - 2. Is it possible to do the right thing for the wrong reason? Sure it is.
 - 3. Is it possible to appear spiritual on the outside but be a mess on the inside? Of course it is.
 - 4. Jesus is saying our inside should match our outside.

II. HOW CAN WE BE SURE OUR HEARTS ARE PURE?

- A. First, we must remember that God sees everything.
 - 1. Jesus made this point in his sermon—Matthew 6:4, 6, & 18.
 - 2. Hebrews 4:13 makes this same point.
 - 3. We may fool everyone else, but we can't fool God.
 - 4. The amazing thing, however, is that God knows everything about us and still loves us.
- B. Second, we must review our motives.
 - 1. Remember that God is concerned with our motives.
 - 2. Jesus illustrates this three ways in his sermon.
 - a. About giving—6:2.
 - b. About praying—6:5.
 - c. About fasting—6:16.
 - 3. What are your motives for the things you do for God?
- C. Third, we must realign our priorities.
 - 1. God insists on first place in our lives—Exodus 20:3.
 - 2. How can we be sure God occupies first place in our lives?
 - a. First, examine our activities.
 - b. Second, examine our account (bank)—Matthew 6:21.
 - c. Third, examine our ambitions.

III. THIRD, WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SEE GOD?

- A. First, it means to be aware of his presence in our lives—Matt. 28:20.
- B. Second, it means to be aware of his purposes in our lives—Jeremiah 29:11.

CONCLUSION

- A. What's the state of your heart? Pure or impure?
- B. How can we get a clean heart?
 - 1. We can't—Jeremiah 17:9
 - 2. God can—Jeremiah 17:10
 - 3. Ask him as King David did—Psalms 51:10.
- C. God may have already given you a new heart. You may be saved, but still have heart trouble. What kind?
 - 1. You may have a broken heart.
 - 2. You may have a hard or bitter heart.
 - 3. You may have a divided heart.
 - 4. Ask God to cleanse your heart.
- D. Remember, blessed are the pure in heart, because they will see God.