

God's People Must Be Pure

(Matthew 5:8)

Introduction:

1. Last week the Supreme Court made a decision concerning marriage that illustrates how impure our country has become.
2. Perhaps this is a good time for us to be reminded that "God's people must be pure," even though we are surrounded by impurity.
3. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

I. WE LIVE IN AN IMPURE WORLD

- A. God did not make the world in an impure condition (Genesis 1:31).
- B. According to Genesis 3, the world became impure because of Satan's influence.
- C. After sin entered the world, evil and wickedness escalated to the point that God decided to cleanse the world with the flood (Genesis 6-9).
- D. Unfortunately, the world became impure again after the flood, and it continues to be impure now.
- E. 1 John 5:19 says: *"the whole world lieth in wickedness."*
- F. Even though we live in an impure world, . . .

II. GOD REQUIRES HIS PEOPLE TO BE PURE

- A. God has always required His people to be pure.
 1. Psalm 24:3-4
 2. 1 Timothy 5:22
- B. Being pure can be a challenge because we live in an impure world.
- C. However, the Bible shows us that we can remain pure despite the impure influence that surrounds us.
 1. Noah lived in an impure world, but he *"found grace in the eyes of the Lord"* (Genesis 6:8).
 - a. In Genesis 6:9 Noah is described as *"a just man."*
 - b. This verse also says: *"Noah walked with God."*
 2. Joseph suffered greatly because of impure people, but he remained pure.
 - a. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, but he resisted her (Genesis 39:7-9).
 - b. (James 4:7b) *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*
 3. Jesus was *"in all points tempted like as we are"* (Hebrews 4:15).
 - a. However, Jesus faced His temptations *"without sin."*
 - b. 1 Peter 2:22 says that Jesus *"did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."*

- D. God requires His people to be pure, and many Bible characters show us that we can be the kind of people that God wants us to be.
- E. When God requires something from His people, He also teaches us how to do it.
- F. With this thought in mind, let us turn our attention to . . .

III. INFORMATION THAT WILL HELP US TO BE PURE

- A. We first need to understand that God is the One who makes us pure.
 - 1. We learn this from David's request in Psalm 51:10.
 - 2. God purifies us when we obey the Gospel (1 Peter 1:22-23; John 3:5).
 - 3. Being pure is a continual process (1 John 3:2-3; 1:7).
- B. Jesus revealed the key to being pure in Matthew 5:8.
 - 1. The Lord showed that His followers must be "*pure in heart.*"
 - 2. This is important because the condition of our hearts will affect:
 - a. our words (Matthew 12:34-37)
 - b. our actions (Matthew 15:18-19).
 - 3. Being "*pure in heart*" is the key to living a pure life.
- C. To be "*pure in heart*" we must:
 - 1. think on the right things (Proverbs 23:7; Philippians 4:8)
 - 2. pursue the right kind of wisdom (James 3:13-18)
 - 3. practice pure religion (James 1:27).

Conclusion:

- 1. We live in an impure world, but God requires His people to be pure.
- 2. Jesus revealed the key to being pure in Matthew 5:8 -- being "*pure in heart.*"
- 3. What is the condition of your heart?