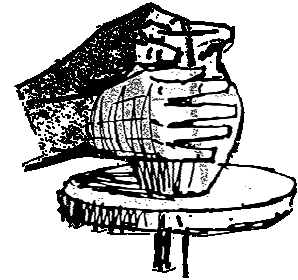


His Workmanship: Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

Blessed Are The Pure in Heart, Beatitudes, Part 7, by John Piper

Jesus Concerned About Our Heart.

The first thing we learn from "Blessed are the pure in heart" is that Jesus is concerned with our heart. It is not enough to clean up our act on the outside. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and of the plate, but inside they are full of extortion and rapacity. You blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup and of the plate, that the outside also may be clean," Mt 23:25-26. The aim of Jesus Christ is not to reform the manners of society, but to change the hearts of sinners like you and me. So, for example, Jesus would not be satisfied with a society in which there were merely no acts of adultery: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart," Mt 5:27-28. Jesus wants pure hearts. The heart is what we truly are, in the secrecy of our thoughts and feelings, where nobody knows but God. And what we are at the invisible root matters to God as much as what we are at the visible branch. "Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart," 1 Sam 16:7. From the heart are all the issues of life, Pr 4:23. "What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart..."

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man," Mt 15:18-19. "Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks," Mt 12:33-34. So the heart is utterly crucial to Jesus. What we are in the deep, private recesses of our lives is what He cares about most. Jesus did not come into the world simply because we have bad habits that need to be broken. He came into the world because we have dirty hearts that need to be purified.

The Impotence of Government. Have you thought recently how helpless the local, state, and federal government is to solve problems of our society? CBS aired a program called The Vanishing Family—Crisis in Black America. The focus was on the black community, but the problem is true in all groups of our society. The statistic was given that 58% of all black babies are born to unmarried mothers. Only about 1% of these are put up for adoption. So over half of the next generation in the black community is being raised without a dad at home. The long term effect of that tragedy nobody knows. What can the government do?

It seems that all it can do is try to find ways to soften the financial burden on these children and their mothers. Do you see how amazingly relevant the words of Jesus are? He said, "Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication." Out of the heart comes fornication! All babies born to unmarried mothers (and fathers!) are born from fornication. Therefore Jesus would say that this massive problem in our society is a problem with the heart. If people—white, black, red, yellow people—were pure in heart, they would be blessed. Their cultures and communities would be blessed. And the impotence of the state to deal with the inner collapse of our culture would be replaced by the power of purity. [This is relevant because 44% of births in this church in the last ten years have been illegitimate—children who would have been called *bastards* in a society that did not promote fornication and dishonor of marriage, cf. Deut 23:2; Zech 9:6; Heb 12:8, KJV. Some of these parents have further arrogantly profaned the Lord's sanctity of marriage by trying to bring up these children outside of marriage.]

The Centrality of God and Social Relevance. Now the reason we men-

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tion the social relevance of Jesus's teaching on purity of heart is not because that is what the beatitude is about. In fact, this beatitude is emphatically irrelevant if measured by contemporary social standards. Blessed are the pure in heart, Jesus says, not because they shall save the legislature millions of dollars in AFDC payments. Rather, blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. The reason we mention the social impact implied in Jesus's teaching is so that our socially sensitive consciences can gladly affirm the centrality of God in this beatitude. The fundamental problem in American society and culture is that we attempt to solve human problems while neglecting the centrality of God in the life of the soul. We are so bombarded by human tragedies of poverty and crime and abuse and neglect and war and the manifold injustices of man to man that we are tempted to agree with the world that it is useless pie in the sky to be concerned with whether the soul will ever see God. But this is the greatest of all tragedies—that in seeking to relieve the temporal miseries of man we set aside the centrality of God. Yet Jesus comes to us and says, *"Blessed are the pure in heart,"* not because they change society, but because they will see God. Seeing God is the great goal of being pure. Abandon that goal, and human culture collapses into ruin.

Three Questions.

1. What is it to see God?
2. What is it to be pure in heart?
3. And how are these two things bound together?

1. What Is It to See God?

A. To Be Admitted to His Presence.

First, to see God means to be admitted to his presence. After the plague of darkness on Egypt, Pharaoh exploded to Moses with these words: *"Get away from me; take heed to yourself; never see my face again; for in the day you see my face you shall die."* Mo-

ses said, *'As you say! I will not see your face again,'*" Ex 10:28-29. When a king says, "You will never see my face again," he means, "I will never grant you admission again into my presence." In the same way we call the doctor and say, "Can I see Dr. Roth today?" We don't mean "can I see a picture of him"; we mean "can I have an appointment to be with him, to see him face to face." So the first thing seeing God means is being admitted to his presence.

B. To Be Awestruck by His Glory.

Second, seeing God means being awestruck by his glory—by a direct experience of his holiness. After God confronted Job in the whirlwind, Job said, *"I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes,"* 42:6; cf. Is 6:5; Jdg 6:22. Virtually all of our spiritual sight in this life is given to us through the Word of God or the work of God in providence. We "see" images and reflections of His glory. We hear echoes and rever-

"Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."
How many places does this verse appear in the Bible?

berations of His voice. But there will come a day when God Himself will dwell among us. His glory will no longer be inferred from lightning and mountains and roaring seas and constellations of stars. Instead our experience of Him will be direct. His glory will be the very light in which we move, Rev 21:23, and the beauty of His holiness will be tasted directly like honey on the tongue. So seeing God means not only being admitted to His presence, but also being awe-struck by an experience of His glory.

C. To Be Comforted by His Grace.

Finally, seeing God means being comforted by His grace. Again and again the psalmists cry out to God that He not hide His face from them. *"Hear, O*

Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me! ...Hide not Your face from me," Ps 27:7-9. *"Hide not Your face from me,"* is the same as saying, *"Be gracious to me!"* This means that seeing the face of God is considered to be a sweet and comforting experience. If God shows His face, we are given blessings and peace—we are saved, Num 6:24-26; cf. Ps 4:6; 31:16; 67:1; 80:3, 7, 19; 119:135; Dan 9:17. He hears our cries, helps us, and shows us mercy. If He turns his face away, we are forsaken, dismayed, Deut 31:17-18; Ps 13:1; 27:9; 69:17; 102:2; 143:7; Mic 3:4. Our sins cause Him to turn His face from us, Is 59:2. So when Jesus promises the reward of "seeing God" there are at least these three things implied: we will be admitted to His presence, not just kept in the waiting room. We will be awe-struck with an experience of His glory. And we will be saved, helped, and comforted by His grace. We will have these blessings—in part now, and fully in the age to come—if we are pure in heart.

2. What Is It to Be Pure in Heart?

Søren Kierkegaard wrote a book called Purity of Heart Is to Will One Thing. That is not a bad definition, provided that the one thing we will is the glory of God. The Scriptures teach us that purity of heart requires preparation. Just as the Israelites had to prepare themselves and their camp for the Lord's appearance on Mt. Sinai, we must also cleanse ourselves to come into God's presence, Ex 19:10-17, 21:24.

A. According to David. In the closest Old Testament parallel to this beatitude, David said, *"Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully,"* Ps 24:3-4. You can see what David meant by a "pure heart" in the phrases that follow. A pure heart is a heart that has nothing to do with

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Psalm 133:1

Let your faith be seen in 2014
“I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.” —Colossians 2:5

Pure in Heart, from p. 2

falsehood. It is painstakingly truthful and free from deceitfulness. Deceit is willing two things, not one thing—it is double-minded. It wills to do one thing so that people think it is doing another. It feels one thing and wants people to think it is feeling another. That is impurity of heart. Purity of heart is to will only one thing, namely, to “seek the face of the Lord,” v. 6. A pure heart is single minded.

B. According to James. “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded,” Jas 4:8. Notice that just like Ps 24 there is reference to both clean hands and a pure heart as preparation for drawing near to God, or “ascending the hill of the Lord,” i.e. “seeing God.” But notice how the men are described who need to purify their hearts: “men of double mind.” That is they are men that desire two things, not just one thing. James explained he impurity of double-mindedness: “Unfaithful creatures (adulteresses)! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God,” Jas 4:4. So the double-minded man of v. 8 has his heart divided between the world and God, like a wife who has a husband and a boyfriend. Purity of heart on the other hand is to desire one thing, namely, full and total allegiance to God.

C. From Jesus's Mouth. Where in the gospels did Jesus explain purity of heart in this way? “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,” Mt 22:37.

Discipleship Here At Home

Not with part of your heart. Not with a double or divided heart. That would be impurity. Purity of heart is no deception, no double-mindedness, no divided loyalty or allegiance, no pollution. (Note: you can see the echo of this meaning from Paul, “The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere [i.e., unhyphocritical, undivided faith],” 1 Tim 1:5.) A pure heart wills one thing, namely, God's truth and God's value in everything we do. The aim of the pure heart is to align itself with the truth of God and magnify the worth of God. If you want to be pure in heart, pursue God with utter single-mindedness. Purity of heart is to will that one thing.

3. How Are the Two Bound Together?

Jesus gave us only part of the answer here. It is a true part, but only part. He says that the pure will see God. That is, purity is a prerequisite for seeing God. The impure are neither granted admittance to His presence, nor are they awed by the glory of His holiness, nor are they comforted by His grace. “Strive for...the holiness without which no one will see the Lord,” Heb 12:14. In other words, blessed are the holy, for they shall see God. There is a real purity and a real holiness which fits us to see the king of glory. And of course that leads every sensitive soul to cry out. “Who can say, ‘I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin?’” Pr 20:9, and with the disciples: “Who then can be saved?” Mt 19:25.

Jesus's answer came in Mt 19:26—and this is the rest of the answer—“With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” In other words, God creates a purity for us and in us so that we can pursue purity. By His grace we must seek that gift by praying with David, “Create in me a clean heart, O God,” Ps 51:10. And we must look to Christ “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works,” Tit 2:14.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Mark Campbell—in ICU last week with seizure and blood clot

Giles Free—seizure and black eye from fall; confined at home, no driving for 3 mos

Pat Wilkes—recovering from knee surgery; pain
Brittany Tope's grandmother—dialysis

Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors. Undergoing chemo this month.

Sue Witherington, Brett's grandmother—breast cancer has returned

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Bill Dennis—heart issues

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs quick meals to heat up, like soup

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia

Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; arthritis

Judy and Mike Strand—hepatitis treatment
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Job concerns Linda Szymanski

Welcome **Andreas Duvall** recently moved here and is rooming with **Mark Reingrover**: phone 919-818-1997; email fileclerk26@gmail.com

Travel The Gintchins are in Bulgaria.

Congratulations **Jordan Corray** recently received a Bachelor's of Business Management from CSU-Global Online.

Rejoice **Leah LaMonica** and **Tyler Bennett** gave birth to **Bella Nicole** Fri morning, 5#, 9 oz, 19 inches. All are doing well.

The response of our hearts to God's act of creation and Christ's act of sacrifice is single-minded trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. God is the One Who purifies the heart, and the instrument with which He cleans it is His truth, Jn 17:17, and our faith in His truth, Ax 15:9. Therefore, honestly confess your impurity, and He is faithful to cleanse you from all unrighteousness, 1 Jn 1:9. “Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart,” Pr 3:5. Will this one thing—and you will see God.

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Exposing current thoughts & trends

Army Encourages Moral Purity in Leaders *by Shareen Fischer*

The topic of purity is not listed in the Army values, nor does it directly appear on any list of popular leadership principles. But in January, over 140 female Cadets, Cadet Candidates, high school students and women from the West Point community attended a US Army leadership forum to discuss applying purity in leadership in the 21st century and address the Army's strategic concerns of sexual assault, women in combat, and self-esteem among female Army officers. It began as a women's Bible study in 2011 and continues to expand each year, offering participants time to consider how to apply their faith values to their Army service. This year, male Cadets organized a parallel meeting to address moral leadership considerations from the male soldier's perspective. Guest speaker Karen Jaedicke encouraged all attendees to draw closer to God, God's Word, and to each other for strength, wisdom, professional and spiritual growth, and personal accountability. "Females in the Army want to be accepted for who they are and the strengths they bring to this Profession of Arms," Jaedicke said, "but some feel the only way to be received into the predominately male units is to compromise their godly and Army values they uphold including respect, integrity, and godly character." Using the theme "Renewing of your Mind" from Rm 12:1-2, male Cadets also spent half a day discussing topics such as sexuality, temptations, and the battles men face. Overall, organizer Tom Austin said it taught young men how to commit to a life of purity. "We continue to deal with issues in the military that every man has to deal with, but it is the constant renewing of one's mind through the transformation in Christ Jesus that helps each of us overcome every temptation," Austin said. "The women learned that the Army value RESPECT applies to how we see ourselves as much as it applies to how we treat others." Cadet First Class Ashley Justice, and Cadet Ashtin Kurz, both USMA Class of 2015, shared personal testimony of the challenges they've overcome in trying to live a life of purity at the Academy. "Sexual purity is not sought after much; in fact, the world rejects it," said Kurz. "Yet sexual impurity or immorality is one of the major downfalls of our senior generals and NCOs today... It was a huge encouragement to see women across all ages present, which confirmed that this topic is not irrelevant in the 21st century," said Cadet Niki Boyda, USMA Class of 2014. "It was at these events that I learned how to make wise choices off-duty as an officer that will complement my actions on duty... Each event gives an opportunity to put into the hands of the attendees Biblical thinking, which helps them see the destructive nature of promiscuity," Kurz said. "They are searching for dignity and nobility as leaders and they find it in the Biblical world view, many times for the first time in their lives!"



meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

• **adult Bible class**, Lessons from Deuteronomy, Larry Campbell

• **Sermon**, "Characteristics of a Godless Person," Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon

• **Sermon**, "The Fruit of the Spirit is...Joy," Jonathan Hadders

Wednesday night adult Bible class, Pearls from Proverbs, Jim Reingrover

Deacons' meeting this afternoon.