

Who Are the Pure in Heart?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 5:8 - "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God."

1. "A pure heart faces the worst kind of evil in this world. But as it sleeps, it is blessed, and it wakes up cleansed and a little bit stronger" (Gregor Collins).
2. "A pure heart is the vessel that contains a soul's true beauty. The best part of beauty is the part that cannot be seen in a picture, but is hidden within the pure heart" (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*).
3. "When people attempt to live a double life spiritually, that is, to appear pure on the outside but are not pure in the heart, they are anything but blessed. Their conflicting loyalties make them wretched, confused, and tense. And having to keep their eyes on two masters at once makes them cross-eyed, and their vision is so blurred that neither image is clear" (Clarence Jordan, *Sermon on the Mount*).
4. "The pure in heart are blessed because they will see God. Although this will not be ultimately true until the Judgment, yet it is also true even now. Our perception of God and His ways, as well as our fellowship with Him, depends on our purity of heart. The visio Dei—what an incentive to purity" (D. A. Carson, *The Sermon on the Mount*).
5. Psalm 24:3-5

B. Why are the pure in heart blessed and happy?

1. They are sincere, simple, and serene
2. Their lives are clean
3. They have a great promise

C. Each Beatitude has a particular form:

1. A declaration of blessing
2. A description of attitude
3. A disposition of blessing

D. Definitions

1. Heart - kardia - "The heart; figuratively the thoughts or feelings of the mind" (Strongs). It is a compilation of our intellect, emotions, will, and conscience.
2. Pure - katharos - "Literally or figuratively clean, clear, pure" (Strongs). It is unspoiled, without impurity, elemental, and uniform in composition.
3. A pure heart is:
 - a. An intellect trained by truth
 - b. Emotions tempered by sobriety
 - c. A will traversing a straight path
 - d. A conscience tightly tied to morality

E. Prov. 20:9 - "Who can say, 'I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin'? Solomon asks a profound question; it begs a greater question: how does one have and hold a pure heart?"

I. THE PURE IN HEART ARE SINCERE, SIMPLE, AND SERENE

- A. They are sincere - Titus 2:7-8; 2Cor. 1:12, 2:17
- B. They are simple (uncomplicated, not stupid) - 2Cor. 11:3
 - 1. Truth is simple - Matt. 11:25
 - 2. Error is complex - Titus 1:15
- C. They are serene - Phil. 4:7-9

II. THE PURE IN HEART LIVE CLEAN LIVES

- A. Purity of life follows purity of heart - Prov. 4:23; Rom. 6:17-18
 - 1. We must purify our hearts before we can purify our lives
 - a. John 17:17; Acts 15:8-9; 1Peter 1:22; Gal. 2:20
 - 2. What happens if our hearts are not pure, but we act as if they are?
 - a. We are Pharisees - Matt. 23:25-28
 - b. We become corrupt - 2Tim. 3:8; Jude 10
 - 3. A clean life is a life of true happiness.

III. THE PURE IN HEART WILL SEE GOD

- A. God Himself is pure - 1Peter 1:16; Psalm 18:26
- B. The pure in heart want to see God - Psalm 51:10-11, 24:3-6
- C. This promise is highly motivating - Heb. 12:14; 1John 3:2-3
- D. How happy will be the day when the pure of heart see God!

Conclusion:

- A. Psalm 73:1, 25-26, 28
- B. The pure in heart become so and remain so by drawing near to God in this world; and thus, see God in the world to come.