

# Matters of the Heart

## Pure Heart

### INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Question: How much of the following things would you permit in your drinking water?
  - ① Dirt
  - ② Pesticides
  - ③ Arsenic
- ▶ **Fact:** God is seeking pure hearts! (Matthew 5:8; Proverbs 4:23)

### PURITY DEFINED

- ① Not mixed or adulterated with any other substance or material
  - ▶ Illus: • Pure gold (Exodus 25:17) • pure oil (Leviticus 24:2) • pure wool (Daniel 7:9)
- ② Free from moral fault or guilt (1 Timothy 5:22)
  - ▶ Illus: • (God's) Pure commands (Psalm 119:127) • pure offerings (Malachi 1:11) • pure joy (James 1:2) • pure wisdom (James 3:17) • pure spiritual milk (crave it!) (1 Peter 2:2) • pure (clear/clean) conscience (1 Timothy 3:9) • pure virgin/bride (2 Corinthians 11:2; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 19:7)

### PURITY OF GOD (Habakkuk 1:13; 1 Timothy 6:15-16)

- ▶ ISSUE OF LIKENESS: We are called to be like the God we believe in and follow ... THEREFORE, since God is pure and holy, we must aspire to be pure and holy.

### THE PURITY GAP

- ▶ Bad News – There is an enormous purity gap between God and us (Proverbs 20:9; Romans 3:10)
- ▶ Good News – God has done something fantastic to bridge that gap!

### CONFESSON - CLOSING THE DISTANCE (Psalm 51:1-12)

- ▶ Sin Defined = to think, speak or act in a manner contrary to the expressed will of God... to fail to live up to God's perfect laws either by commission or omission.
- ▶ Examples of Sin: ☹lying ☹deceiving ☹cheating ☹stealing ☹gossip ☹lust ☹sexual immorality ☹jealousy ☹hatred ☹unforgiveness ☹pride ☹indifference ☹malice ☹slander ☹selfish ambition ☹explosive anger/rage ☹foul language ☹divisive spirit ☹lack of self control ☹critical spirit ☹idolatry ☹occultic practices ☹compulsive behavior ☹greed ☹self-destructive habits ☹spiritual sloppiness
- ▶ HEART EXERCISE: Confession (1 John 1:9)

### GETTING PURITY BACK (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13; Psalm 103:8-14)

- ▶ HEART EXERCISE: Receiving Cleansing
- ▶ PRINCIPLE: A big key to maintaining your heart purity before God is to shorten the lag time between sin and confession.

### PRACTICING GATE - KEEPING (1 John 3:3)

- ▶ Distinguishing between getting (or becoming) pure and staying pure
- ▶ Keeping the Bad Stuff Out (James 1:27; Romans 12:2)
- ▶ Getting the Right Stuff In (Philippians 4:8)

### TRICKY THING ABOUT PURITY

- ▶ Balance: Staying pure AND staying on mission (Luke 19:10; Acts 1:8; Jude 22-23)
- ▶ PRINCIPLE: You cannot have impact without contact.

## LifeGroup Questions - Doing Life Together

Week of April 30-May 6, 2017

### *Matters of the Heart*

#### Pure Heart

Sermons can be viewed online at [creeksideeg.com/sermon](http://creeksideeg.com/sermon)

Questions are based on the NIV translation of the Bible

#### PRAYER

Begin your time together by thanking God that the Bible gives clear instructions on the importance of a pure heart and how to have one.

#### MY STORY

When have you needed to protect an item in your house or yard? What did you protect, how did you do it, and what were the results?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

1. What new insight did you gain from Sunday's message regarding purity and the human heart?
2. Why do you think people value pure things? Give examples.
3. Read **Habakkuk 1:13** and **1 Timothy 6:15-16**. What does the "purity of God" mean? How should God's purity influence us today?
4. In your estimation what value does our culture place on moral purity? Explain.
5. Read **Psalm 24:1-6**, **Matthew 5:8**, **Romans 12:2** and **Hebrews 13:4**. What value does God place on moral purity in our lives?

6. If we are going to aggressively be "purity gate keepers," what are some of the things we need to get into our lives? What are some of the things we need to keep out?

#### DIGGING EVEN DEEPER

7. What do the following verses teach about purity and a pure heart?

**Psalm 51:7-13**

**Psalm 73:1**

**1 John 3:1-3**

#### TAKING IT HOME

8. Based on Sunday's message and your own study, what steps do you need to take regarding your own heart purity?
9. Memorize Psalm 51:10

#### PRAYING TOGETHER

Pray for the needs of your group and ask God to purify your heart.