

WHO IS PURE IN HEART?

Matthew 5:8

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: In Jesus' day, the Pharisees boasted of being superior because they were the "true" people of God. Many in today's time insist that God has so completely renewed them that their carnal nature has been eradicated and therefore they do not commit sins and do not even have sinful desires or thoughts. However God's Word says, *"...If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us..." (1 John 1:8)*. What Jesus has done for believers in Him is to blot out their sins and make them acceptable to God, but it does not mean that the old sin nature has been removed, it is still there with all its strengths and ways. So, what does it mean to be "pure in heart?" Who is pure in heart?

1. Purity of heart does not mean a sinless life.

- Noah got drunk, Abraham lied, Moses disobeyed God, Job cursed the day he was born, Elijah fled in fear from Jezebel, and Peter denied knowing Jesus.
- What about Paul? What Christian has attained more than Paul? What was Paul's experience?
 - *Romans 7:21, 23, 25*
 - He wanted to do good, but ended up doing wrong.
 - He constantly battled against his human nature that kept getting him into sin.
 - He served God's law with his mind, yet his flesh got him into sin.
- One can have a pure heart by discovering the impurity of his/her old human nature heart.

2. "Blessed are the pure in heart..."

- Jesus was addressing the Jewish people who had been reared under Judaism laws.
 - The Jewish people had a privileged relationship with God, separated from all other nations, set apart as holy to God and were permitted to draw near to God in worship.
 - They prided themselves on being "chosen of God."
- Jesus was speaking about a higher privilege belonging to those who would be part of His kingdom.
 - Those who were a part of Jesus' family, kingdom would not only be externally holy, but also "pure in heart."
 - They could approach God's Holy place (as did the Jews) but they would also actually see God and have a very close personal relationship with Him, which the Jews did not have.

3. Being pure in heart is both literal and figurative.

- A new heart is received at the moment of belief in Jesus (regeneration) and then there comes the moral transformation of the believer's character as the Holy Spirit works in that person's life.
- An internal cleansing follows the new birth.
- There is no "heart purity" in the natural person, unbeliever but "heart purity" comes after regeneration.
- A hand religion seeks salvation by works.
- A head religion is founded with some type of creed or series of statements about religious doctrine.
- God looks within and gives a "new heart" to those who believe and blessed indeed are those who have received such for it is a "pure heart" that God gives.
- The new heart received at salvation (regeneration) and the transformation of the believer's life which follows God's work of grace in the soul results in having peace with God.

4. What, therefore is "purity?"

- "Purity" that Jesus is speaking of is Godly simplicity.
- It is being pure in words and conduct, pure in desires, motives, intents and laying aside of malice, jealousy, and hypocrisy.
- Pure in heart is setting affections upon Godly things, pure motives, worshiping with the right attitude, to meet the Lord and not to be seen by others.

CONCLUSION:

1. *"...For they shall see God..."*

- The promises that follow one having a pure heart have both a present and a future fulfillment.
 - There is a spiritual discernment that opens the believer's eyes of understanding Godly things.
 - The believer enjoys intimate and delightful communion with God.
- Those pure in heart are brought very near to God and God's mind becomes their mind and God's will becomes their will and their fellowship is truly with God, the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. Only when believers get to heaven will they then understand the full meaning of these words:

"...the pure in heart shall see God..."

3. The first step in having a pure heart is to turn to God's Son, Jesus Christ in sincere belief and surrender to Him your total existence and at that moment, you will begin to have that "pure heart" needed to see God.