



Preacher: Peter Hamlett
Title Purity
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Key Scripture

Notes

No condemnation now I dread

*Jesus and all in Him are mine
Alive in Him our living head
And clothed in righteousness divine
Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own*

Series of messages exploring attributes which God expects in order to make His presence known in increasing measure. Holy Spirit underlining repeatedly that God greatly desires to do so much for, in and through us, but requires something from us if we are to experience His very best.

PURITY: very challenging yes BUT full of potential to enable us to live the best life

PURITY: definitions

In chemistry pure substances are those made of only one type of atom or only one type of molecule (a group of atoms bonded together). Pure substances exhibit very well-defined physical properties.

In the spiritual realm? Purity is related to guiltless, blameless innocent behaviour. In the OT before they could participate in any ceremonial activity, God's people – and particularly His priesthood – were required to be ceremonially clean. In the NT, the emphasis is not on ritual purity but on purity of character; Fruit of the Spirit

Apostle Paul's ministry was enhanced and accredited because of the kind of person he had shown himself to be. He encouraged his apprentice Timothy to set an example in his lifestyle and purity. Remember: purity will exhibit well defined properties

Personal Response

Meditate on:

Act on:

Want to be full of joy? Then walk His way of life!
(Psalm 16:11)

Want a closer encounter with God? Then
make sure your heart is pure! (Matthew 5:8)

Want to go to higher heights with God? Then
make sure not only that your heart is pure but
also that your hands are clean! (Psalm 24:4)

Want to enjoy God? Then seek to glorify Him
– reflect his Glory! ‘The chief end of man is to
glorify God and enjoy Him forever
(Westminster Shorter Catechism)

What is OUR righteousness like? See
Isaiah 64:6

We can live right only by Holy Spirit’s
enabling. He alone can answer King
David’s prayer: *create in me a clean heart*.
By GRACE we are saved; we cannot earn
God’s we owe Him our best as the Spirit
enables us.

See later about the quest for sinless
perfection but there *will* be times when
we fall short. 1 John 1:8 – 9. In that same
chapter John made clear that Jesus wants
us out in the light where He promises that
cleansing. How? By His blood!

Apostle Paul made something else clear.
Romans 6: 1-2 & 14-15

I was brought up in The Salvation Army
tradition of Wesleyan holiness. I can’t
remember ever hearing sinless perfection
being preached but that was the ultimate goal
of the Wesleys. Maybe it’s an impossible
dream in this life but it should be our
aspiration. Yes, Jesus is always just and
faithful to forgive when we get into the light
but He wants our walk there to be the norm
not just when we need to confess.

‘The greater danger for most of us lies not
in setting our aim too high and falling
short; but in setting our aim too low, and
achieving our mark’. Michelangelo.

God expects us to aim high He provides
every resource to enable us to hit the
target!

William Booth and the early day Salvationists
knew all about power! They expected
salvation to be followed by sanctification,
people set apart and marked with the
characteristics of Jesus Himself. And they
knew where the power to achieve that came

from! They needed and we need another Pentecost, a change of mindset: renewal of our minds spiritually to embrace truths which our natural mindset cannot comprehend and then to walk in the good - and the power - of them.

Remorse, regret is not enough, we must *repent* in the true meaning of that word: turn around and take on a new mindset.

So what do we actually DO?

- (i) Remind ourselves of those truths we've been hearing about lately as to who we are in Christ Jesus.
- (ii) Remember that we are temples of the Holy Ghost.
- (iii) Invite Him to do what only He *can* do. He's the revealer and the dealer – revealing what needs to change and enabling us to deal with it.
- (iv) Reject Satan's lie that, if we fall short, we might as well give up because we're never going to make it.
- (v) Get dressed right! 'Clothed in righteousness divine.' That I believe is the condition of our entitlement to go boldly into God's presence.

Jesus is, of course, much more than an example but an example He most certainly is. We are called to model our lives on His, reflecting the image and likeness in which we are created.

Our prayer should be that of another song of Salvation Army origin:-

*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me
All His wondrous compassion and purity;
O Thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine
'Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.*

*O that the world would taste and see the riches of His grace. The arms of love that compass me would all mankind embrace
(another Wesley hymn)*

The world needs to 'taste the difference; see the distinction. God requires the man (or woman) inside to be consistent with what others see.

Anyone made a conscious decision to sin today? No? Good! So how about in future making conscious decisions NOT to sin? Te Deum: 'Vouchsafe O Lord to keep us this day without sin'

Right actions, right thinking, right attitudes; making right decisions as to what we look at, what we listen to, where we go, what we say. Ensuring that our motives are right, not just in lifestyle and conduct but even in how and why we 'do church'.

Philippians 4:8

My Bible studies in Amos this week presented God's verdict on His people whose character by no means reflected their professed commitment to Him

... .. We, who have a fuller revelation of God in Jesus Christ and his written Word, have a huge responsibility to be faithful to him. The temptation to assimilate the practices and attitudes of the world around us is very strong, we perhaps don't even realise what is happening, but when anything becomes more important to us than God, we are being led astray. May we not fall into temptation It is an immense privilege to belong to God, and with that privilege comes the expectation of holy living

I cannot tell you what this may mean for you but I invite all of us to consider exactly what may be required in our lives, in our conduct to enable us to not only to experience more and more of God's presence but also to demonstrate and communicate it to the world in which we live and it may take time