

Lesson Seven

PURITY OF HEART

"Purer in Heart, O God, help me to be; that I Thy holy face One day may see. Keep me from secret sin,
Reign thou my soul within; Purer in heart, Help me to be."

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). "For out of the abundance of
the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34).

"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness,
blasphemies" (Matt. 15:19).

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8).

"But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her
in his heart" (Matt. 5:28)

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light"
(Matt. 6:22).

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just,
whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any
virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things" (Phil. 4:8).

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting
down arguments and every height thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every
thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5).

"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart
have I sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word have I hidden
in my heart that I Might not sin against You" (Ps. 119:9-11).

Introduction

The subject of this lesson is more narrowly focused than the subject of "purity of heart" might
ordinarily be. We are concerned to deal with the challenge which the explicit sexual impurity in films,
television, videos, books, magazines and the computer internet presents to purity of heart in the Christian.

We need first to ask ourselves how well we are dealing with the lascivious atmosphere in which
21st century life is increasingly lived. With what kind of movie and television entertainment are we filling
our minds? What kind of books and magazines are we reading? What kind of music are we listening to?
And with what are we allowing our children to fill their minds and eventually their lives? Are they
wholesome, godly, and calculated to nurture the Christ-like life?

And secondly, we need to develop from the Bible a positive strategy for preventing our minds
being taken captive by ungodly values and sinful thoughts.

I. The Eye Fills the Heart

A. Job 31:1

1. What covenant had Job made with his eyes?
2. Concerning what sin did Job call down a curse upon himself if he should ever commit it?
Job 31:10-12 What progressive steps are suggested.
3. What was the initial thing that snared David in what became at last incredible wickedness?
2 Sam. 11:2-5

B. Matthew 5:28,29

1. What does Jesus say constitutes adultery in the heart?
2. Does this principle apply in any way to the watching or reading of material which is calculated to stir illicit sexual desire?

II. Out of the Heart Comes a Life

A. James 1:14-15; Matthew 15:19,20

1. Where does a sinful life begin?
2. Could what we watch and read create thinking which leads to sin?

B. Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 23:7

1. Where does a good life begin? Does it happen by accident?
2. Is what we watch and read and think about important to producing a godly life?
3. Can you watch and read moral "filth" and expect to have a pure heart?

C. Psalm 1:1,2; Psalm 119:9-11; Philippians 4:8

1. With what specific things should our hearts be filled if we want our hearts and lives to be pure?
2. How is this to be achieved?
3. What principles should guide us in our choice of things to watch, read and think about?

III. Practical Projects

1. Make a list of the television programs, videos, books and magazines that are read in your home? Note any that might not pass the Phil. 4: 8 test of things good to think about.
2. Make a "Think on These Things" list of specific items which would make good fodder for the pure heart.
3. Make a list of the things which you reel present a real threat to the/purity of a Christian's heart.