

Purity of Heart

Read / Study – and be prepared to discuss

Proverbs 4:23
Matthew 12:34
Matthew 15:19
Matthew 5:8
Matthew 5:28
Matthew 6:22
Philippians 4:8
II Corinthians 10:5
Psalm 119:9-11

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 to first ask ourselves how well we are dealing with the lascivious atmosphere in which late 20th 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 should he ever commit it? Job 31:10-12. What progressive steps are suggested?
3. What was the initial thing that snared David in what became the last incredible wickedness? 2 Sam. 11:2-5

B. Matthew 5:28-29

4. What does Jesus say constitutes adultery in the heart?
5. 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

6. Where does a sinful life begin?

7. Could what we watch and read create thinking which leads to sin?

B. Proverbs 4:23, 23:7

8. Where does a good life begin? Does it happen by accident?

9. Is what we read and think about important to producing a godly life?

10. Can you watch and read moral 'filth' and expect to have a pure heart?

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

11. With what specific things should our hearts be filled if we want our hearts and lives to be pure?

12. How is this to be achieved?

13. What principles should guide us in our choice of things to watch, read and think about?

III. Practical Projects

14. 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 good things to think about.

15. Make a "Think on These Things" list of specific items which would make good fodder for the pure heart.

16. Make a list of the things which you feel present a real threat to the purity of a Christian's heart.