

Bless This Home Pure Heart

A pure heart is a vital ingredient to a blessed life and home (Matthew 5:8). In fact, the condition of our heart – that place of our desires, emotions, choices, and motives – is so important that we are taught to guard it above anything else (Proverbs 4:23). Jesus is clear that those with a pure heart not only receive blessing, but they will *see God*. The challenge, however, is that there is no such thing as partial purity; something is either pure or impure. If we are not careful, we can easily believe the lie that we are *mostly* pure, that if we polish up our behavior externally that we are deemed pure internally. Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees for being clean on the outside but full of greed and self-indulgence on the inside (Matthew 23:25-26). Thankfully, Jesus offers us purity and cleansing through relationship with Him. When we confess our impurity and sin in repentance, it is His blood that cleanses us from all sin and unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-10). His desire for us is that we give Him all of our heart, as well as all of our soul, mind, and strength (Matthew 22:37).

GET THINGS STARTED

What are the things that you are most adamant about protecting (e.g., your home, car, identity, passwords, etc.), and what do you do to protect those things? What threatens those things you want to protect the most, and what is at stake?

GO DEEPER

1. From Proverbs 4:23, what does it mean to *guard* your heart, and why should we *guard* it above everything else?
2. What is the blessing of a pure heart that Jesus teaches about in His *Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5:8)? How will the pure in heart *see God*?
3. According to 1 John 1:7-10, how do we purify our hearts? What is the warning to those who deny or dismiss their sin and impurity?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. How pure is your heart? What are the primary things right now that are contributing to any measure of impurity in your heart?
2. How have you possibly believed the lie of *partial purity*, that external polishing produces internal purity? What is the truth that you need to embrace and declare?
3. What do you think a pure heart in you might produce in your home and with your family? What is the blessing you desire for your family?
4. What steps do you need to take to a) get rid of the bad in your heart and b) fill it with good? What is the good that you need that will produce purity in your heart? How well do you exercise the spiritual disciplines of confession and repentance?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time in prayer to ask God for a pure heart. Ask Him to show you where there is impurity, and then confess and repent of those things. Invite Him to cleanse you from your sin and unrighteousness, to produce in you the purity that only He can give. Ask God to show you how to guard your heart from impurity, and to reveal to you where you have possibly opened the door of your heart to impure things. And ask Him to give you a clearer vision and desire for the blessing in your home and family that comes from a pure heart.