

## Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Matthew 5:8

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**MAIN IDEA:** The Beatitudes describe all true Christians, meaning *every* believer in Jesus Christ displays *all* the qualities that Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3, 10). And every true Christian must put forth maximum effort to grow in these qualities, while understanding that God is ultimately responsible for inward change.

You can only enter God's presence if you are "clean"—according to the standard God sets. In other words, you must have a clean or pure heart. Those who belong to Jesus' spiritual kingdom are known for having pure hearts.

In Matthew 5:8, we consider several issues about what it means to have a pure heart.

### OUTLINE:

- I. The Seat of Purity (8a) – "in heart"
- II. The Senses of Purity (8b)
  - A. Pure: Not Mixed (Ex. 25:11)
  - B. Clean: Not Dirty
    1. Physically Clean (Mt. 23:26; 27:59)
    2. Ceremonially Clean (Lev. 11:33, 36)
    3. Morally Clean (Hab. 1:13)
- III. The Steps to Purity
  - A. In regeneration, God initially cleanses the heart of the believing sinner from the guilt and stain of sin (Ezek. 36:25-27; Acts 15:9; Heb. 9:11-14; 1 Pet. 1:22).
  - B. In our ongoing confession and repentance, God continually cleanses the hearts of believers (Ps. 51:2, 10; 1 Jn. 1:7, 9).
  - C. In sanctification, God's Spirit continually cleanses our hearts from patterns of sin as we strive to obey His Word (Jn. 15:3; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 Jn. 3:3).
- IV. The Satisfaction of Purity (8b) – "*they shall see God*"
  - A. The glorified body of the 2nd Person of the Trinity (Jn. 17:24; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:5-8; Rev. 1:13ff; 19:11ff).
  - B. Whatever physical manifestation God chooses—likely blazing, glorious light (Ezek. 1:28; 10:4; 1 Tim. 6:16).

### *Its Uses...*

1. As an Examination of your Profession of Faith
2. As an Invitation to Come to Jesus for Cleansing
3. As an Exhortation to Pursue Greater Purity
  - a. Daily repent of and confess your sin
  - b. Daily seek to put off patterns of sin in obedience to God's Word

## **BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS**

1. Read Psalm 24:1–6. What does this psalm teach us about God? What does this psalm teach us about God's requirement for man to enter His holy presence?

## **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why does Jesus begin the Sermon on the Mount listing/describing qualities of those who are in His spiritual kingdom? Why is it crucial that we as Christians examine our hearts to see if these qualities are present? What is the biblical process for growing in these qualities?
2. For the believer, why is continual repentance/confession a crucial step in growing in purity of heart? What often keeps us from repenting/confessing in a timely manner?
3. In our pursuit of purity, why is it key that the Word of God and the Spirit of God are sought after rather than a 5-step program from the world/culture? Discuss.