

# Pure Joy

**Big Idea: Despite living in a morally polluted world, it is possible to live a blessed life with a pure conscience and a constant awareness of God's presence.**

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8).*

## 1. **Blessed are the *pure*** (gr. *katharos*)...

### a. Purity is possible (*blameless*)

First of all, we stand before God the Father as sinless, holy, pure – not because of our good works but because we stand in Christ's righteousness: *For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21).* We are cleansed by His blood (1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5; 7:14).

However, if we are in Christ, His purity should also be seen in our life. We receive ongoing cleansing through His Word: *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to Your Word (Psalms 119:9).* *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God (1 Peter 1:22, 23; see also Ephesians 5:25-27).*

If purity doesn't characterize our life, we need to run to our Saviour (not away from Him) and receive His cleansing: *If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin...If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:6-9; see also 3:3-8).*

### b. Purity is a process (*refining by fire, pruning, purging* - "catharsis")

Often we go through difficult times (the refiner's fire – Zechariah 13:8,9 and Malachi 3:2,3) so that the impurities of our life can come to the surface and be purged. *For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith-- that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection (Philippians 3:8b-10a; see also James 1:2-5).*

### c. Purity will permeate (*genuine, sincere* - lat. "sine cera")

*Test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it (1 Thessalonians 5:21-24).*

## 2. **...in heart** (gr. *Kardia* – *the centre of our being*)

In this case, the word "heart" includes spirit and soul. This means God's purity will permeate our thoughts, emotions, will – every part of our personality. If that happens then our words and actions will also be affected: *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks (Luke 6:45).*

## 3. **...for they shall see God** (gr. *Optanomai* - *perceive, be aware*)

We know we can't see God physically but when we live out our lives in purity we will be aware of His presence and His handiwork in our lives: *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us (1 John 4:12).* This is the blessed, happy life we were intended to live. What do you need to confess so that Christ's forgiveness and purity can flow freely through your life today?