

Purity of Mind in an Impure World

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I. Introduction.

- A. The world around us is increasingly becoming more and more impure. It is our challenge to maintain purity in our mind in an impure world.
- B. Text: Ephesians 4:17-19. (Romans 18:22-end)
- C. We are called to be separate.
- D. We focus on the mind because thoughts are what guide actions. Also, God can see our thoughts as easily He can see our actions and we are accountable to Him for them. (Psalm 139:1-2, 4)
- E. The standards of the world are overtaking the church, so we cannot look to our Christian peers for moral guidance. We have to look at the Bible.(1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, 3; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:3-4)

II. We fortify our minds against impurity by following God's standard as the Word explains it. (Psalm 119:9-11)

- A. Memorize and meditate on the Word so that it is ready for us in the moment of temptation. (Psalm 39:19; Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:4, 7, 11)
- B. Do not conform yourself to the world's standard, but do allow God to transform you on the inside. (Romans 12:2; Hebrews 1:9)
 - 1. We need a change of attitude toward sin; we must love righteousness instead of wickedness, even our own pet sins.
 - 2. Transformation begins with our minds being renewed- that is, changed by why we allow our minds to be fed by.
- C. We must clothe ourselves with Christ and do not allow opportunities for our sinful nature. (Romans 13:13-14; James 1:14-15; Matthew 5:28; 1 Timothy 2:9)
 - 1. We must fight our natural temptation to look for opportunities to sin.
 - 2. Putting on Jesus Christ means being dependent on Him for strength and for our attitude toward sin.
 - 3. We must pray for help in these areas.
- D. We must flee from our own evil desires which seek to destroy us. (1Timothy 2:22, 11; Proverbs 27:12; Psalm 2:15)
 - 1. Sin starts with the little temptations.

2. God's standard is absolute purity. (1Timothy 5:22)
3. We must mentally focus on things that are true and noble and right and pure. (Philippians 4:8)
4. We must "build our own fences" that help us not to fall into sin, but we must not decide what other people's fences should be or lose sight of the fact that the fence is not the sin- the sin is the sin.

Application questions:

1. What is your mind being fed by? How can you be fed more by what is true, lovely, etc.?

2. What kind of fences have you built in your life to guard yourself from sin? Why do you have those particular fences? What are they guarding you against?

3. What does it mean to love righteousness and hate sin? How can we build a love of righteousness in our lives?
