

James Series Going Deeper

5- Day Devotional

Week 10, Day 4: The Purity Test

Primary Verse:

Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:23-33; Colossians 3:12-17

Scripture Focus

“But the wisdom from above is first pure...”

James 3:17

Devotional

After exposing the false wisdom of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition, James describes the wisdom from above.

And the first word he uses is **pure**.

That matters.

Heavenly wisdom is first pure because God’s wisdom is never driven by polluted motives. It is not mixed with pride, jealousy, bitterness, lust, greed, deceit, manipulation, control, or self-promotion.

Purity is the starting point of heavenly wisdom.

That means before we ask whether something is strategic, effective, impressive, popular, persuasive, or successful, we must ask whether it is pure before God.

Is my heart clean in this?

Is my motive surrendered?

Is this pleasing to Jesus?

Is this honoring to the Father?

Is this aligned with the Spirit?

James is teaching us that the “why” and the “how” matter just as much as the “what.”

You can do the right thing with the wrong motive.

You can speak truth with a harsh spirit.

You can correct someone with pride.

You can pursue justice with hidden bitterness.

You can lead with selfish ambition.

You can serve while secretly craving recognition.

You can give while wanting to be seen.

You can be right in content and wrong in spirit.

That is why heavenly wisdom must be first pure.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

That is the purity test.

Not merely:

Can I do this?

But:

Can I do this for the glory of God?

Not merely:

Is this technically allowed?

But:

Does this honor Christ?

Not merely:

Will this work?

But:

Is this pure?

Colossians 3 gives us the clothing of the new life: compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace, thankfulness, and the Word of Christ dwelling richly within us.

That is what purity begins to produce.

Purity is not just avoiding sinful behavior. Purity is a heart increasingly unmixed before God.

A pure heart wants God's will more than personal control.

A pure heart wants God's glory more than personal recognition.

A pure heart wants obedience more than image management.

A pure heart wants righteousness more than winning.

A pure heart wants Christ more than self.

Today's Reflection

Is there an area where you are doing the right thing, but with the wrong motive?

Are your words, actions, and decisions passing the purity test before God?

Where do you need to ask God to cleanse your motives, not just change your behavior?

Today's Prayer

Father, purify my heart. Do not let me hide behind good actions while being driven by wrong motives. Cleanse me from pride, jealousy, selfish ambition, bitterness, and hidden sin. Make my desires holy, my motives sincere, and my wisdom from above. In Jesus' name, amen.

Today's Action Step

Bring one current decision, conflict, or relationship before God and ask: "Is my heart pure in this?" Write down what the Holy Spirit reveals and respond with obedience.