

The Philosophy of Ministry – Week 10

“Living a Pure Life”

- Who has ever been affected by a Christian leader in your life that fell into sin?
- How did that affect your life? How did it affect the Church?
- Who knows someone who is out of church today because a Christian leader in their life fell into sin?
- Why is it so important for a Christian who desires God to use them to live a pure life?
- What have you found to be the most helpful keys in living a pure life?
- Today we will look at the importance of living a pure and godly life both publicly and privately. To be a person of integrity and who seeks to live a holy life. We will look at why that is important, what God expects of us, how we can live a clean life, and dangers to avoid.

1. What is God’s Standard for the Christian?

- A.** Have you ever had someone say, “*God knows we are sinners, He doesn’t expect us to live a perfect life!*” is that true?
- B.** What is God’s standard for the believer according to the following passage?
 - 1. Leviticus 11:44-45** – “*For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be _____; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.*”
 - 2. Leviticus 19:2** – “*Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be _____: for I the LORD your God am holy.*”
- C. Isn’t that OT language? Does God really expect me to live a “holy” life?**
 - 1. This is reiterated in the New Testament**
 - a. 1 Peter 1:14–17 — 14;** *As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: 15; But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. 17; And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:*

- i. How much of our “conversation” or “conduct” does God say needs to be holy? _____
 - ii. What is the reason God says we should be holy? _____
 - b. **1 Thessalonians 4:3** — *For this is the will of God, even your _____, that ye should abstain from fornication:*
 - c. **1 Thessalonians 4:7** — *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto _____.*
 - d. **Hebrews 12:14** — *Follow peace with all men, and _____, without which no man shall see the Lord:*
 - e. **Matthew 5:48** — *Be ye therefore _____, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*
 - f. **1 John 3:3** — *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as _____ is pure.*
 - g. **2 Peter 3:14**
- D. God calls the believer to be holy, “as I am holy”. What does God’s Holiness mean according to the Scriptures?**
1. God’s Holiness is the _____ attribute of God. That means that the chief attribute that God desires for us to know Him by is His holiness.
 - a. **God’s _____ is holy - Psalm 99:3; 111:9; Luke 1:49; Matthew 6:9**
 - † **Psalm 99:3** — *“Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.”*
 - b. **God’s dwelling _____ is holy - Isaiah 57:15; Psalm 11:4; 68:5**
 - † **Psalm 11:4** — *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*
 - c. **God’s _____ is holy - Psalm 47:8**
 - † **Psalm 47:8** — *“God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.”*
 - d. **God’s Holiness is unmatched - Revelation 15:4; 1 Samuel 2:2**
 - i. **1 Samuel 2:2** - *“There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.”*
 - ii. **Revelation 15:4** - *“Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.”*
 - e. **All persons of the Trinity are holy.**
 - i. God the Father is called “Holy Father” (John 17:11).
 - ii. Jesus is called “the Holy One” (Acts 3:14).
 - iii. The Spirit is called the “Holy Spirit” (Eph. 4:30).
 - f. **In our language when we want to give emphasis to a thought what are some ways, we can do that?** _____
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- i. When the Jew wanted to express emphasis they would use _____. Examples: _____
 - ii. What do you find God emphasizing in the Bible in the following passages? _____

- 1) **Isaiah 6:3** — *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*
- 2) **Revelation 4:8 — 8;** *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*
- 3) This 3-fold repetition of God's holiness, called the "*trihagion*", speaks not only of God's character, but also speaks of the Trinity (Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit – "Holy, Holy, Holy).
- 4) Note: No other attribute of God is phrased this way; they never say, "loving, loving, loving", or "merciful, merciful, merciful"; but they do cry out, "holy, holy, holy".

2. The holiness of God speaks of His _____.

- a. This root idea of "separateness" forms the basis for the concept of being "set apart", of being sanctified, which is the basic meaning of "holiness".
- b. God's holiness means therefore that God is entirely separated from all that is evil and from all that defiles. He is untouched and untainted by sin, there is nothing of God that has anything sinful or unclean whatsoever.
 - † **Habakkuk 1:13**—"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity."
- c. You see this clearly when God enters the world in human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, and after thirty-three years he was without any sin.
 - † **Hebrews 4:14-15**— "*Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without _____.*"
 - † I Peter 1:19, 2:22; Hebrews 7:26; I John 3:5; Luke 23:22, 41, 47

3. God is both separate from sin, and positively God is absolutely perfect, pure, and holy. As the Apostle John stated, "*God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*" (I John 1:5).

E. What does this "holy life" look like in our lives?

1. Holiness speaks of 2 things in our lives:

- a. Negatively – it speaks of the _____ from sin.
- b. Positively – it speaks of the _____ of a holy, pure, and godly life.
- c. Underline the negative side and circle the positive side of holiness in the following verses.
 - i. **Ephesians 4:22-24** — *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

- ii. **Titus 2:11-14** — *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*
- iii. **2 Corinthians 7:1** — *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
- iv. **Philippians 2:15** — *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

F. God desires to use those who live a clean and holy life.

- 1. **Psalm 101:6** — *Mine eyes shall be upon the _____ of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall _____ me.*
- 2. **1 Timothy 3:2** — *A bishop then must be _____, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*
- 3. **Titus 1:6** — *If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

2. How can I live a holy life?

A. Through _____ (I John 1:7, Psalm 103:12)

- 1. We are unable to make ourselves holy, we have a sin nature that is “bent” toward sin. We sin because we are sinners, therefore we are separated from holiness in the first place. Therefore, God must intervene in some way to make what is unclean and unholy something that is clean and holy, and He has through the person of Jesus Christ.
 - a. **1 John 1:7** — *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
 - b. **Psalm 103:12** — *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*
 - i. What cleanses us from all sin? _____
 - ii. How far has he removed, or separated our sin from us according to Psalm 103:12? _____
- 2. How clean has God made us at salvation?
 - a. We are positionally made as holy and sinless as Christ.
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:21** — *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 1:30** — *But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:*

iii. **Philippians 3:9** — *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

iv. **Romans 5:19** — *19; For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

3. Am I really holy in God's eyes?

a. The New Testament word for "holy" comes from the Greek word "hagios". It is used 229 times in the N.T., 161 times it is translated as "holy" in our English Bible. Amazingly, 61 times this word is also translated as _____

i. **Ephesians 1:1** – *"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints (Hagios)" which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:"*

ii. How amazing that Christians are called the "hagios" of God! Literally the "holy ones" or "saints" of God! Since we are called holy by God, we therefore need to live what kind of lives? _____

B. Through the Work of the _____ - Phil. 1:6, Gal. 5:16-17

1. **Philippians 1:6** — *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*

2. **Galatians 5:16-17** — *16; This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17; For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

3. The Spirit of God is called the "Holy" Spirit. He indwells the believer at the point of salvation and works in sanctifying the believer to become more and more like Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6, Eph. 4:12-13, Rom. 8:29).

4. According to Paul in Galatians 5:16, either the believer walks in the "Spirit" and obeys His leading in their lives to live holy, or they walk in the "flesh" and obey their sinful nature.

C. Through God's _____ - John 17:17, Eph. 5:26-27

1. **John 17:17** – *"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."*

2. **Ephesians 5:26-27** — *26; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27; That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

3. **Psalm 119:9-11** — *9; BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10; With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. 11; Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

D. Through _____ of our sin to God

1. **I John 1:9** – *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

2. As Christians, we don't confess our sins for salvation, but for "_____". Our "relationship" has been eternally secured through Christ's blood. We have been "perfected forever" (Hebrews

10:14). We need to be “cleansed” from our day-to-day sins. This confession restores our “fellowship” with God, not our “relationship”.

3. How often should a believer confess their sins to God?

E. Through denying _____

1. **2 Corinthians 6:17a** - *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord,...”*

2. As Christians, we need to “separate” ourselves from the sinful things of this world.

3. Examine your life, are there any areas you need to make some changes to? Are there some “unholy” things that need to be removed from your life?

4. **Do you believe you need to make any changes in the following areas:**

a. Entertainment - Television; movies; music; internet

i. **Proverbs 4:23** - *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* (Matt. 12:35)

ii. Why is it important to guard your heart as a Christian?

iii. Is it true that *“what comes in will come out”*?

b. **Communication**

† **Psalms 19:14** - *“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

c. **Associations (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)**

F. Through _____ fellowship – Heb. 10:25, Prov. 27:17

† **Hebrews 10:25** — *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

† **Proverbs 27:17** — *Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.*

1. How important has Christian fellowship been to your spiritual maturity?

2. What stays hotter longer, a single coal, or a bed of hot coals? How does this apply to the Christians life and other believers?

3. Pitfalls of the Christian life - Dangers to avoid.

A. _____

1. How can pride enter a Christians heart and cause them to fall into sin?

2. Is any Christian too spiritual to fall?

3. Who are examples in the Bible of godly servants of God who fell into sin? _____

4. **Matthew 26:31-33 — 31**; *Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. 32*; *But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. 33*; *Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.*

5. **John 15:5 — 5**; *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*
6. **2 Corinthians 12:7 — 7**; *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

B. _____

1. **1 Timothy 6:9-11 — 9**; *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10; For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11; But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*
2. **Matthew 26:15 — 15**; *And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.*
3. **Acts 5** – Ananias and Sapphira
4. **Matt. 13:22, 2 Peter 2:15-16, Jude 11**

C. _____

1. **1 John 2:15-17 — 15**; *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16; For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17; And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*
2. **2 Timothy 4:10 — 10**; *For _____ hath forsaken me, having loved this _____ world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*
3. **Proverbs 5-7**
 † **Proverbs 6:26 — 26**; *For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.*
4. Be careful that you do not have a casual attitude about questionable things in your life.

D. _____

1. **Numbers 32:23 — 23**; *But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*
2. **Psalm 139:23-24 — 23**; *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24; And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

E. _____

1. When you minister to people you must be careful that their chaos does not become _____ chaos. Make sure you stay balanced in the ministry. Being exhausted and overwhelmed is not a spiritual virtue.
2. Some fall in the ministry because they treat ministry as a “_____” instead of a “_____”. They start out excited, emotional, all-in! They run as fast as they can for God and burn out. Many of these people get out of Church.

F. Become _____

1. How does our physical life reflect upon our spiritual life?
2. Why is having a physically disciplined life important to your spiritual health?
3. **1 Corinthians 9:26–27 — 26;** *I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 27; But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*
 - a. **“I keep under my body”** – from a word (Gr. hypōpiazō) that speaks of literally blackening the eye.
 - b. **“and bring it into subjection”** – make it my slave.
 - c. Paul beats his body and brings it into slavery to God so that he does not find himself disqualified.
 - d. Paul didn’t want to allow his flesh to sin or become so undisciplined that he was disqualified from the ministry and lose the rewards that faithful service would provide.

Assignments:

- Read: chapter 10 – Pursuit of God – “The Sacrament of Living” and write a 2-paragraph response:
 - Paragraph one: Summarize what this chapter was about.
 - Paragraph two: How you can apply these truths to your life.
- Study for test for next week.
 - Test will also include questions about the life of David.
 - What two chapters in Psalms did David write regarding his sin with Bathsheba?
 - Who was the OT prophet to confront David.
 - **Psalm 32:5 — 5;** *I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*