

More Than Random - Purity Questions for Fellowship Groups Week of June 11-17

Opening comments –

Purity is one of those words that many times causes us to think different things. Living here in Nashville Purity Dairy may readily come to mind. That is some good milk and ice cream and if you are into fitness, the annual 5k sponsored by Purity Dairy in the Spring. At times, the word purity shifts our thinking to things related to sex. While purity definitely relates to us as sexual beings, the focus of the sermon was more holistic rather than just pinpointing the sexual aspect of our lives.

In the sermon, Michael led us to think about purity by looking at the opposite – selfishness. Remember the verses we looked at in Matthew 15? (Matthew 15:1-2; 10-20) The religious leaders were once again trying to trick Jesus by focusing on external things in life (behavior) and Jesus focused on the internal. He mentioned that the heart needs to change not just the outward signs of being “righteous”.

True purity emanates from love. Direct the group to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Give them a chance to reflect and then share on what Paul says in these verses about love.

Say, Our struggle begins when we try to fill a void that can only be filled by Christ Himself. Impurity rears its ugly head as we attempt to fill that void with actions and thoughts conjured up on our own hearts and mind. We fall into the old trap of believing that it is about us and in this new life in Christ, it is ALL about Him.

Ask, What are some ways that you have been trying to fill a void with selfish actions that have you trapped at times?

It is Christ Himself who purifies us. John 3:16-17; Hebrews 9:13-14; John 15:3

Say, The blood of Christ. Hmmm. For some all of this bloody stuff can be off putting but without the shed blood of this “once for all sacrifice” we would be destined for even a bloodier mess. Christ in His love and grace purifies us Himself. Hebrews 10:14 clearly says, For by one sacrifice, He has made perfect for all time, those whom He has made holy. Woot! Christ has fulfilled that sacrificial law completely.

Say, So . . . what we bring to this equation is our sin (you name it; our lying, stealing, conniving mess) and He brings His grace and His blood to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. All of our selfishness and impurity is made pure in God’s eyes through Christ.

Ask, what does that cause you to think about your own life and more importantly about how God sees us in Christ? (You might want to reread Hebrews 10:14. Does God really see us as perfect?)

Living in Purity

Ask,(rhetorically) Is there really a chance for you and me to live in purity? Even though we might question it at times, YES WE CAN, as we surrender and begin to realize the depth of Christ’s love for you and me.

Purity becomes a reality in our lives as we love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)
As we begin to fall more in love with Him, “want to” begins to change. Falling in love with Christ Himself instead of just His teachings causes us to forfeit our own way (selfishness) for selflessness. Abandoning my selfish pride because of His great love causes me love and trust Him more, wanting what He wants at the expense of what I think is best for me (selfishness again with that me word).

Ask, What is one thing we can pray for one another as we surrender to Him and forfeit our own right that is centered on “me” rather than He in your life?