

A Pure Heart

Mt 5:7 Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Clean. A clean heart. **Free from sin.**

According to the scholars: “It [a pure heart] consists of full and unreserved self-offering to God” Pure in heart is pure in motive. A pure heart is a pure conscience without ulterior interests or hidden intentions. And to be this pure, they must be doing what they’re doing “as unto the Lord,”

Each Must Seek Clarity from the Lord.

According to the “Expositor's Bible Commentary” Vol 8

The emperor Julian the apostate is reputed to have said with vicious irony that he wanted to confiscate Christians property so that they might all become poor and enter the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, the wealthy too easily dismiss Jesus' teaching about poverty as merely attitudinal and confuse their hoarding with good stewardship.

Some ... deny that ... mourning is for sin. Others understand it to be ... for any kind of misery. **Isaiah 61:3** [NIV] and provide for those who grieve in Zion— ... the oil of joy instead of mourning. פָּאֵר תַּחַת אֲפֹר Beauty for ashes, i.e. the headdress worn of the bridegroom for ashes. [note: the word are both 3 letters in which the first 2 are reversed.]

The word “meek” is hard to define, The Greeks consider meekness a vice because they failed to distinguish it from servility. Martin Lloyd Jones applies meekness to our attitudes toward others. Meekness requires ... a true view of ourselves. “To be meek is to acknowledge to others that we are sinners; to be merciful is to have compassion on others that they are sinners too.” John Stott

The precise nature of the righteousness for which the blessed hunger and thirst is disputed.

Commentators are divided on “pure in heart.” Some take it to mean moral purity. Others take it to mean single-mindedness, a heart free from the tyranny of a divided self. Several passages focus on freedom from deceit.

Matthew 6:22 The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.

Psalm 24:4 he one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god

“Peacemakers” a word written nowhere else in Scripture.

It isn't the crime; it's the coverup!

Revelation 21:8 [NIV] But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and **all liars**—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death

Zephaniah 3:13 They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.

Vs. 11 I will remove from you your arrogant boasters.

vs. 12 But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD.

Confession which is part of (or leads to) repentance means in the Bible: To agree with God. I John 1:9

Truth sets Free [John 8:32]. Jesus is the Truth [John 14:6].

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed

Three hints as to its meaning:

1. These persons are “**happy**”!
 - **Sir Walter Scott** "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" **Maintaining deceptions, hidden motives, and lies is heavy work**
 - **Matthew 23:28** [ESB] outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness
 - **Luke 11:41** [NIV] be generous ... and everything will be clean for you.
 - **Acts 16:25** About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

2. Ask God's people what "clean" means.

- **Revelation 12:11** [NKJV] And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by **the word of their testimony**....
- **James 1:27 Pure** ... and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows ... and to keep himself unspotted from the world.
- **Revelation 19:8** [NIV] Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) **Isa 61:3?**
- **Ivory Soap** - 99.44% pure.
 - **Hebrews 10:22** [CSV] Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled **clean from an evil conscience**
 - **Psalm 51:2** Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
 - NIV "**thoroughly**: make much of it, Lord! There is a word written here which does not find its way into some translations because the spelling is debated (though not its meaning) and as a consequence, how to say it has been lost. It carries the idea of multiple times.
 - **Wash** - Scholars chalk this up to a poetic use in place of the usual word to "wash" used elsewhere in the Old Testament, but I want to disagree here.
 - Using the usual word for a personal washing or washing oneself, one's hands or feet, Asaph wrote: "Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence." [**Psalm 73:13**]
 - As Asaph knew, there are times when our own efforts at self-washing, spiritually living a righteous life, are weak and incomplete.
 - C. H. Spurgeon referred this to a "**dungeon of distress.**"
 - This is the **fuller's soap** and work!
 - **Malachi 3:2** God... is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: [Isa 1:18?]

3. It is **Descriptive of Heaven**

- Also These persons will "**see God.**" Purity is a characteristic of sainthood, a qualification for citizenship in Heaven.
 - **John 15:3** [ESV] You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

As Unto the Lord

How are our motives and desires said to be “pure” I submit this thought:

Ephesians 5:22 [ESV] Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, **as unto the Lord**. An interesting instruction which could apply to all our relations. Eve was told her desire [longing] would be to her husband [**Genesis 3:16**] *after* they discovered evil was a real thing. In Eden she was his helpmeet, not support but working together [Genesis 2:20]. Adam became Eves “ruler” subsequent to the “Fall” But Paul elevates the relationship by adding “as unto the Lord.” eg. Mary Ellen

Colossians 3:23 [NIV] Whatever you do, work at it **with all your heart**, as working **for the Lord**, not for human masters,

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live**, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in this body, I live by faith in God's son who loved me in giving Himself [on Calvary] for me.

Romans 14:8 If we live, **we live for the Lord**; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, **you did for me.**’

Connect to Merciful

Jesus is taking us 1 step beyond the natural expression of alms giving. He is uncovering the hidden reality that for His followers no act of mercy is just an isolated act of kindness. It is always **done to Christ, for Christ, and by Christ** in us and that is how it is a pure, unselfish, “separated-onto-God” act of the heart. It has to be said or done from the heart, not through duty or coercion.

It follows, therefore, that in talking about giving to the needy Jesus should indelibly impress upon His followers that no expression of christian love goes unnoticed and unrewarded if it is done unto Him, if it is the outward sign of who we are becoming in Him, if it is “Christ in us”

Colossians 1:27 [NASB] to whom God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, the mystery that is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.