**Purity**

Purpose: to challenge us to have purity in our relationship with God.

Our theme passage for this series:

1 Timothy 4:11-16 Set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

Tonight, we will be talking about setting an example in our purity.

What is purity?

Greek: katharos We get the word cauterize as in to cauterize a wound. Clean it of all bacteria/impurity

I am a chemist… Something is pure if it is unmixed. Something that is pure has only one substance. Ex: The semiconductor industry makes silicon 99.99% pure, which means less than one atom in 10,000 is not silicon.

The definition of the word pure is unadulterated or unmixed.

Illustration: There were many things in the Law of Moses which outlawed different kinds of mixing of things. For example, the Jews were not to wear clothing of two or more materials, or to sew two different kinds of seed in the same field (Leviticus 19:19). God was using these physical examples to teach the Jews about the idea of spiritual purity. Application: Do not mix with the pagans/Gentiles.

2 Cor 6:16-18 (quoting from Isaiah 52:11) Come out from them and be separate from them.

Do not mix Christianity with the world. Be pure.

A. The importance of purity.

The concept of purity is closely connected with holiness, and most of us are well aware that holiness is a very important quality of God.

Revelation 21:27

If nothing impure will ever enter the new heaven and earth, then what kinds of things can we assume will we not see there?

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure.

Illustration: Would you want a surgeon to use an impure scalpel? Why not?

The motivation for purity from this scripture?

The impure are “unfit for doing anything good.”

I want to be pure. How can I be more pure? In what ways?

1 Corinthians 5:6-8

Another important aspect of “purity” in the Old Testament was the extreme measures the Jews took to remove every possible speck of leaven from their houses before Passover.

Why do you think God made such a big deal about this?

He wanted the Jews/us to understand how important purity/impurity is to our relationship with him.

Paul applies the same concept to us as Christians, but in a more metaphorical way.

Q: What is he trying to tell us in this passage? What will impurity do to us?

v. 8 …the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Sincerity is closely associated with purity.

Sincere from the Latin without wax. Potters and sculptors would fill in their imperfections with wax.

B. We will be looking at some different kinds of purity in the Bible.

1. Ephesians 4:29-5:3 Purity of actions and words.

v. 29-30 Impure talk—insults, slander, gossip, inappropriate words.

5:4 Course talk, inappropriate jokes, profanity, sarcasm.

Let us have pure talk—talk which is wholesome and which builds people up.

5:3 not even a hint of sexual immorality or even actions which might suggest the possibility.

Not spending time alone with members of the opposite sex. Being cautious about the way you dress.

1 Timothy 5:2 On a date—treat the sister like your physical sister.

Absolute purity is an oxymoron. Pure purity.

2. Matthew 5:8 Purity of heart. (Let them share for a while, but at some point you might to point out that purity here is probably more in the sense of unmixed and fully devoted rather than in the sense of without sin or stain)

Q: What do you think it means to have a pure heart? 1 Tim 1:5 from a pure heart and sincere faith.

Q: How might this be related to the laws against mixing in the Old Testament?

Have you had mixed motives in your relationships or in your service to God?

Discussion questions:

1. Are there any areas in which the purity of your words may have been problematic?

2. Are there any areas in which the purity of your actions may have been a problem lately?

3. Are there any ways in which you have had an impure heart/impure motivation in your life?