

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

Whether you're talking about water, soap, sugar, or honey, people value purity. They want pure air, pure water, pure enjoyment, pure excitement! They won't settle for anything less than pure Colombian coffee, pure everything. We love purity. We admire it. We desire it.

The word pure means "clean," "spotless," "free from contamination," "unmixed with any foreign substance." To say that water is pure means it has no dirt or chemicals in it. To say that the air is pure means that it's free of pollution.

Purity is a good thing. But purity isn't just good for water or food or fabric. It's good for people, too. When God made water, He didn't put detergents, dyes, and chemicals in it; He put water in it. That's the way God wanted the water to look, feel, and taste. Similarly, when He created man, He made it clear what our life should contain—not only to please Him but to make our life better.

Living a pure life means keeping out all the things God didn't intend to go into your life. A pure life is pleasing to God. And, like pure sugar or pure water, it's a lot healthier for your spiritual welfare.

Purity in water or air is a good thing. Purity in life is even more valuable. Here are some suggestions for living a pure life:

- **First, one must purify his soul in obeying the truth.** Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:22-23, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently."
- **Second, one must be concerned with purity of heart or life.** Psalm 24:3-4 reads, "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart."
- **Third, one must be concerned with purity of speech.** In Matthew 12:34-37 our Lord said: Ye offspring of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
- **Fourth, one must pursue and practice sexual purity.** This falls into two avenues:
 - Before marriage: Individuals are to save themselves for marriage. The bible teaches to flee fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18). Any kind of sexual act before marriage doesn't produce purity; it is sin!
 - After marriage. Marriage is to be between a man and a woman who have a scriptural right to be married to each other (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 5:31-35; 19:3-9; Hebrews 13:3-4). It is to be for a lifetime (Romans 7:1-4). Jesus gave only one exception (Matthew 19:9).

Purity doesn't happen accidentally. It only comes from purpose, practice, and execution in one's life. Of all people, especially Christians ought to strive for purity.