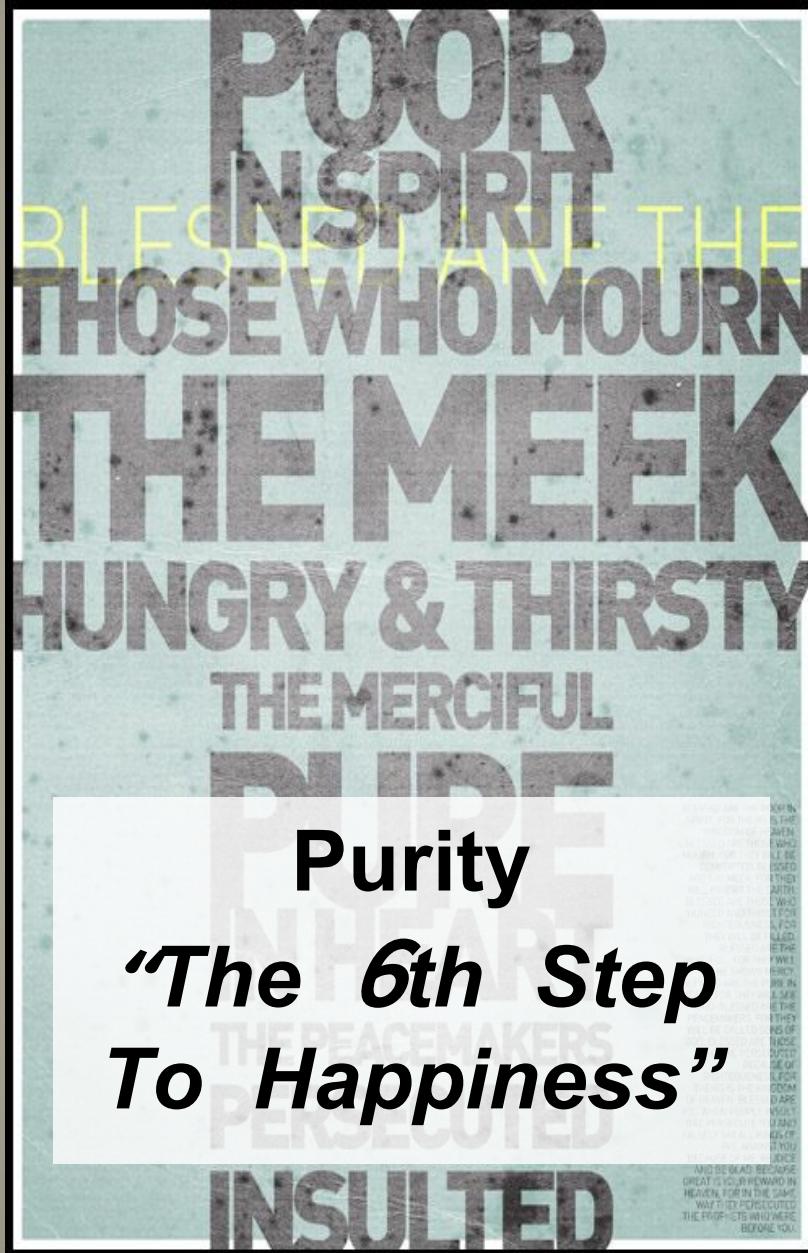


Edward Christian
Church

July 13,
2014



“B6”

**Blessed are The
Pure in Heart**

**“Let Go of My
Ego”**

Vitamins are Beneficial

B Vitamins have been used for years for:

- Energy**
- Outlook**
- Strength**

Jesus Gives us some B Vitamins for:

- Energy**
- Outlook**
- Strength**

They are Called ...the Beatitudes

Blessed = Happy



Matthew 5:8 (KJV) *Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.*

Blessed= Happy

Pure in Heart=

...Happy from the Inside Out

“True Happiness comes from Letting...

***...the Beauty of the Cross Shine Through
You”***

Purity

6th Step to Happiness

- Religion...
 - Starts on Outside...
 - ...Maybe on Inside
 - Seen by Man
 - ...Seldom by God
- Purity...
 - Starts on Inside...
 - ...Moves to Outside
 - Seen by God
 - ...Seldom by Man



Blessed are the Pure in Heart

Pharisees = not so

- *Cared little for the State of the Heart*
- *Outward Forms were Duly Kept*
 - *Legalistic*
 - *Hypocritical*

Matt 23:27, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whitened sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but within full of dead men's bones, / of all uncleanness”

Purity



“Pure” has a Number of Interesting Facets

It was used to Describe...

- dirty clothes that had been washed clean
- grain and flour that had been carefully sifted
- milk or wine that had not been mixed with any other
- liquid. It is not diluted or watered down. It was pure.

- *“Blessed is the man who is genuine in heart, who is authentic, who is not a phony, because such a man will see God.”*

Purity



- **Phil.1:9-10**, “*And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ*”
- **Sincere= Without Wax**
- **Does Not Mean That One Is Perfect ...**
- **...But That We Strive To Be Clean**

The Path for Purity

Cleansing = Available (*Blood of Jesus Christ*)

- 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.*

Confession = Assures Cleansing and Purifying

- 1 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.*

Compliance = Assumes of Life of Purity

- 1 Peter 1:22— *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

Three Steps To Having A Pure Heart

#1- Remember that God sees **EVERYTHING**.

“Mark well that God doesn’t miss a move you make; he’s aware of every step you take” -Prov 5:21 (MSG)

- **Nothing is secret from God**
- **Nothing is a surprise to Him**
- **God already knows it all**
- **He knows everything that I have done**
...and He loves me anyway

You Can’t Please Everyone ...

...but You Can Strive to Please God

...That’s what it means to have a “Pure Heart”

Three Steps To Having A Pure Heart

#2- Review my **MOTIVES** -“*Why We Do What We Do*”

“*All a man’s ways seem right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the motives.*” -Prov 16:2 (HCSB)

- Test yourselves to make sure you are Solid in the Faith

Three Areas to Test Yourself

GIVING -Stewardship

Are you giving in order to...

- get something in return?
- be noticed by other people?

“*Whenever you give to the poor, don’t sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be applauded by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward!*” -Matt 6:2 (HCSB)

Three Steps To Having A Pure Heart

#2- Review my MOTIVES -“*Why We Do What We Do*”

PRAYING- Spirituality

- Am I talking to God or so that others can hear me?
- Am I trying to impress others or Please God?

“When you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. I assure you: They’ve got their reward!” -Matt 6:5

SERVING –Servanthood

“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.” -Psa 100:2

Are you seeking Applause of people or to Please God.

“All a man’s ways seem right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the motives.” -Prov 16:2 HCSB

Three Steps To Having A Pure Heart

#3. Realign my PRIORITIES - Priority Test

ACTIVITIES

- Where do I Invest my Time..Talent...Treasures

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21 (HCSB)

ANXIETIES -What do I worry about most?

“Don’t worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn’t life more than food and the body more than clothing?” Matt 6:25 (HCSB)

AMBITIONS -What are the goals in my life?

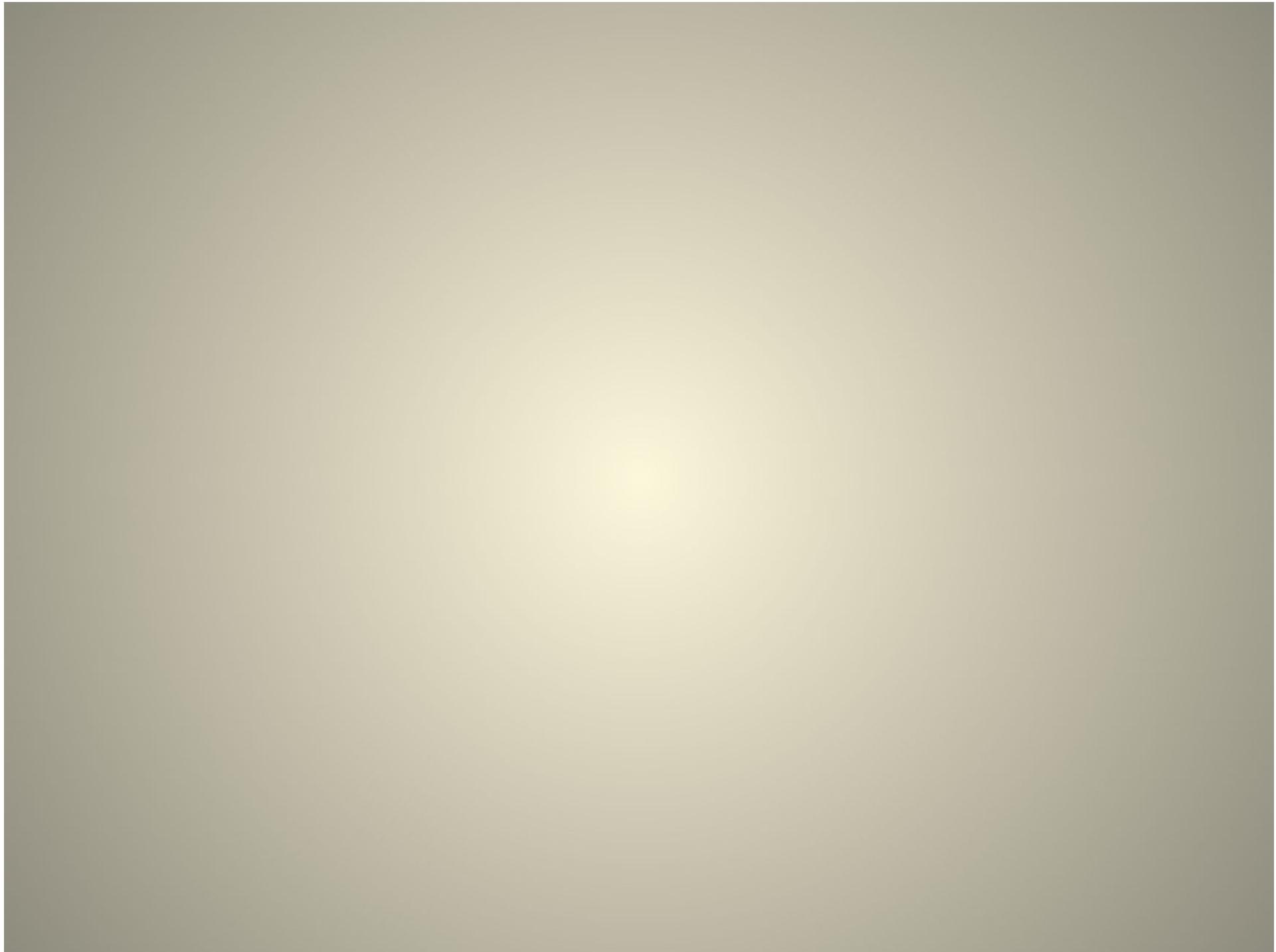
Happiness comes from walking in the presence of God.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things shall be added to you.” -Matt 6:33

P.U.R.E.

- **P- PURSUE** to please God
- **U- UNDERGO** change from inside out
- **R- REJECT** hypocrisy
- **E- EXPERIENCE** God

God Desires Us To be Happy...
...From the Inside out



P.U.R.E.

“P” stands for PURSUE purity

The word “holy” means separate and set apart.

Now, God made us holy and wants us to live holy.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, “It is God’s will that you Should be sanctified”.

To be sanctified means to be holy. NLT “God wants you to be holy”.

P.U.R.E.

“P” stands for PURSUE purity.

The word “holy” means separate and set apart. When you go to the wet market and you choose for example a chicken, you are separating it from the rest of the chickens there and you are setting it apart for yourself. In a sense, you made that chicken “holy.” Now, God made us holy and wants us to live holy. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 says, “It is God’s will that you should be sanctified”. To be sanctified means to be holy. I like how the New Living Translation goes: “God wants you to be holy”. The question is, “Do you want to be holy? Do you want what God wants?” In fact, verse 7 adds: “For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.” God chose us and called us to be separate from sin and set apart for God.

- We are warned in verse 8, “Therefore, he who rejects this instruction [on holiness] does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.” You may be saying, “Well, I am not really rejecting it. I am just not living it.” But to ignore it is to insult God. If we are not living holy, we are rejecting it. For God is so serious about our holiness that He even gave us His Holy Spirit just to make sure we can live it.
- In his book “The Pursuit of Holiness,” Jerry Bridges wrote, “When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives at our salvation, he comes to make us holy in practice. If there is not, then, at least a yearning in our hearts to live a holy life pleasing to God, we need to seriously question whether our faith in Christ is genuine.” 1 John 3:6 says, “No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.”
- Thus, Hebrews 12:14 commands us, “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” The phrase “make every effort” is only one word in Greek, which means “to hunt, to follow after, to pursue.”[3] It is in the imperative mood. So, we are commanded to pursue holiness. It is simply not an option. If we are not striving for purity, we are disobeying God. It is also in the present tense, that is, it is not just once in a while or once in a lifetime but it is a continuous effort. That is why we call it a pursuit. Since it is also in the active voice, that means we are to persistently and actively pursue holiness. Note that Hebrews warns us: “without holiness no one will see the Lord.” I will talk more about that later. The question now is, “Are you making every effort to be holy? Do you want to see the Lord?”

P.U.R.E.

“U” stands for UNDERGO change from inside out

Our Lord Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart...” The heart is “In Biblical language the center of the human spirit, from which spring emotions, thought motivations, courage and action”.^[4] Proverbs 4:23 tells us, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” What does it mean to be pure in heart?

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- **First**, we need to change INTERNALLY before we can change EXTERNALLY. We need a change of heart before we can change our lives. The Message translation of Proverbs 4:23 go like this, “Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that’s where life starts.” Life starts when there’s a change of heart.
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- But God promised in Ezekiel 36:26-27, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” When we put our trust in the Lord Jesus as our Savior, He removes our stubborn hearts and gives us obedient hearts.
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- That’s why we cannot change the outside without changing the inside first. When we try to change a person’s behavior without changing his heart first, the change will be shallow and will not be permanent. But if we change the heart first, then the behavior will change afterwards. The change will then be deep and lasting. Heart change before life change.
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- **Second**, we are to obey not only EXTERNALLY but also INTERNALLY. Why we are doing it is as important as what we are doing. The New Living Translation renders Proverbs 4:23 this way, “Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.”

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- Jeremiah 17:9 laments, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" We are sinners not just in our conduct but much more also in the very core of our beings. We are dead spiritually.
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- Again let me quote from "The Pursuit of Holiness," "Holiness, then, is not necessary as a condition of salvation—that would be salvation by works—but as a part of salvation that is received by faith in Christ... This does not mean the desires for holiness must be a conscious desire at the time a person comes to Christ, but rather that the Holy Spirit who creates within us saving faith also creates within us the desire for holiness."
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P.U.R.E.

“R” stands for REJECT hypocrisy.

According to the Expositor’s Bible Commentary, “Pure in heart means inner moral purity as opposed to merely external piety... it also means singleness of heart, a heart free from deceit.”

- Again, let me remind you that “Blessed are the pure in heart...” is part of a message the Lord gave on a mountain in Matthew 5:7. In the middle of this sermon, the Lord warned us, “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” [7] It is not that we are not supposed to be seen by men. The Contemporary English Version goes like this: “When you do good deeds, don’t try to show off. If you do, you won’t get a reward from your Father in heaven.” The problem is when we try to impress people, when we try to please them, when we put on a show.
- **Hypocrisy is when our conduct does not match our character** ...when we say one thing and do something else ...when we sing “I love you in the love of the Lord” but in our hearts we say, “I can’t stand this person” ...when we act like angels in the church but live like demons in our house. In his book “Improving Your Service,” Charles Swindoll wrote, “this quality [pure in heart] emphasizes the inner man... the motive... the ‘heart.’ It does not refer simply to doing the right things, but doing the right things for the right reason.”
- Let us look again at Matthew 5:8. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Like the other side of the coin, Hebrews 12:14 adds this thought: “without holiness no one will see the Lord.” I believe it does not refer to salvation. It is not about entering heaven. Remember that holiness is not a condition for salvation. But it is a part of the salvation we received when we accepted the Lord Jesus as Savior. Thomas Constable wrote, “Seeing God is a synonym for having intimate knowledge of and acquaintance with Him”. [8]

P.U.R.E.

“E” stands for EXPERIENCE God. In short, to see God is to experience Him. That is the reason why happy or blessed is the pure in heart. So, when we live a holy life, we enjoy intimacy or closeness with God.

- PURSUE purity.
- UNDERGO change from inside out.
- REJECT hypocrisy.
- EXPERIENCE God.
- To be happy inside out, we must
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