

The Importance of a Pure Heart

Matthew 5:8

1. The importance God places upon the heart

- i. In the O.T. the word heart is used over 720 times.
- ii. In the N.T. about 164 times.

2. The Heart

- i. We normally attribute it to the physical organ or an emotional feeling.
- ii. Scripture describes it as the whole or centre of man's inner life or nature.
 - Genesis 6:5 - We can think, imagine with our hearts
 - Mark 12:30 - We can love God with our hearts
 - Daniel 1:8 - We can make choices, decide things in our hearts
 - 2 Samuel 6:16 - We can hate with hearts
 - Acts 8:37 - We can believe with our hearts

3. What God calls a pure heart

- i. Psalms 24:3-4 - The condition necessary to stand in God's holy presence
- ii. 2 Timothy 2:22 - Enables us to call upon the Lord
- iii. James 4:8 - God will draw near to you

iv. The goal of God's commandment is love out of a pure heart

4. Scriptural description of an evil heart – Mark 7:21-23

i. This whole catalog of sins proceeds out of a wicked heart.

- It all comes from within and defiles the man

ii. Man is born with a nature that despises God's law.

- I John 3:4 - whosoever commits sin transgresses the law for sin is a transgression of the law
- Sin is lawlessness, it is choosing to break God's law and it requires 2 things - knowledge and choice
- Man is born with a nature that can produce the most wicked, tainted actions and attitudes that are imaginable and yet God demands a pure heart

5. God's answer to the problem of an evil heart

i. The bible teaches that a pure heart is possible.

- The bible declares that God does purify a man's heart

ii. It begins in the new birth:

- I John 3:3-11
- Romans 5:19
- Roman 6:6

iii. It continues by abiding in the Holy Spirit.

iv. It is strengthened by the continual feeding from God's Word.