

PURE AND UNFILED

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Ephesians 5:27 “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

2 Peter 3:14 “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

God's perfect will for us is that we should be pure and spotless although we live in a world which is impure and spotted. The way of the enemy is that we should be spotted and unclean without knowing it, thus resisting every effort of Our Lord to sanctify us, through His word, and voice and Body.

If we must understand purity as described in scripture, then we must research the type and shadow of the purification from the Old Testament, and we secondly the words used in the New Testament scriptures regarding both purity and impurity. Two of these words are: “Porneia” translated fornication – Eph. 5:3, and “akatharsia” translated, uncleansing, that is something that was clean but was made unclean afterwards.

Let us begin with the types and shadows of the Old Testament:

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE:

I Sam. 7:4 “Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the Lord only.”

Baalism or Baalim is a type and shadow of the mixture of the things which are holy and the things which are profane in a fashion to pose as holy and the things of God. In the ancient world it was a system not only of worship, but of government under which all forms of human uncleanness was legally practiced. In our modern times it refers to the vast world of impurity which is so mixed that one can hardly differentiate religion from politics, right from wrong, good from evil.

The History of Baalism began with Nimrod the son of Cush the son of Ham the son of Noah. He was mighty physically and spiritually, a leader of the people and was worshipped as the son of God – that made him the first antichrist. He instituted the first Government; built the first city, Babylon, and

the first army. They called him Baal, which means lord, so he built a tower and they called it Babel. He perpetuated the sin of Satan, rebellion against God; yet he built temples and commanded all to worship God through him. This mixture satisfied the carnal human rebellious nature which does not want Christ to be king. **THUS ANTICHRIST, INSTEAD OF MEANING AGAINST CHRIST, NOW MEANS ONE WHO USURPS OR TAKES THE PLACE OF CHRIST.** In this sense it would be almost impossible for Antichrist to be a non-religious person. In two scriptures we see where Antichrist will rise up in the midst of the church. Matt.24:15 and 2Thes. 2:3, and 7. Modern Babylon, therefore, can easily be identified as a system of worship which names the name of God but is mixed with other contrary things, and which does not move under the headship or leadership of Christ. This system has so taken the whole thinking, so that Congress is opened with prayer as a formality and many of us say a formal prayer over food before eating.

THE CURSE OF FORMALITY:

Formality in worship is the greatest curse of the church. Jesus Christ himself declares that true worshippers must worship in spirit and truth. Anything outside of spirit and truth worship is false worship; false worship is accepted by the false god, Satan. This means that those who worship by a decree or by habit or by religious practice are not worshipping God our Father but just satisfying their desire to worship, “*...they know not what*” as Jesus told the woman at the well. When God calls men to repentance He is calling us to put away Baalim, or out false worship. The ministers and people need to repent of their churchianity and be cleansed of the wrong motivations which drive them to call for revivals without repentance; revivals which only create new proselytes and desires to win souls, apparently to Christ, but which are seized upon as soon as they accept Jesus as Savior, and taught the ways of the Laodicean church system, instead of the ways of the Lord. When that which is pure is mixed with the impure, the result is impurity. The mixture might be just a little of Babylon, but the result is the same as if it were a lot. “*A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.*”

PURITY CAN ONLY COME BY PURGING OUT IMPURITY:

Most of us cannot see the present Babylon or mixture in the systems of the Church and State because it so permeates our lives that it becomes difficult for us to see. We were born in it; we are children of the system. This of course will make the purging more difficult, BUT PRAISE GOD, we can accomplish all things through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ancient Babylon, which is the type and shadow of the modern Babylon, had no difference between church and state. The King was the head of the state and he was also god or the son of god, according to their doctrine, and it was the

spiritual operation which governed the natural. The Vision of John in the Revelation 17:4 speaks of a woman with a golden cup, feeding abominations to the nations:

Rev. 17:4 “And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet color, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a GOLDEN CUP in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:”

The Woman in this passage represents the modern church, feeding the political leaders and the people of the world with abominations and fornications. NOW, the way it is made to look to us is that the bad people are all of the world order and not of the church, but when we see things through spiritual eyes we see them in their true perspective.

THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW GOD:

And consequently must depend on the church to interpret God to them. What kind of God then does the church present to the world? - Is it the God of the evangelists, who get rotten rich by all kinds of financial gimmicks, or is it the God of the healers who manifest the gifts of the Spirit but behave like sinners? In the confusion of denominationalism with all the denominations claiming they are right and of God, there is not clear message to those without. Some churches have recently been praying for God to kill Kedaffy or members of the Supreme Court. The church sends mixed signals of good and evil to the world. The mixture is so great and the confusion so profound that it is only through that grace and power of God why souls are still being saved. The modern church is giving the world a warped idea of God thus causing the world to drink “*from the golden cup*” of the “*filthiness of her fornication*.” In the spiritual sense the word “*fornication*” means all manner of uncleanness – unclean thoughts; unclean actions; unclean prophesies from unclean spirits and human – appointed unclean ministries. It covers every facet of pornography and uncleanness.

Therefore, when God called to Samuel to cleanse the temple of Baalim this is what he was saying, and I think this is what he is saying to us today.

Isaiah 52:11 “....Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.”

The second thought in the passage from I Sam. 7:4 is: Put away not only Baalim but ASHTOROTH. What is Ashtoroth? Asthoroth was the goddess of lust and sexual abominations of the Palestinians. Another name for Ashtoroth or Ashtoreth is Astarte and Ishtar (The Easter goddess). In some places she is called Aphrodite and is probably the same goddess worshipped later in Rome as Venus. The question some readers might be asking is, what has this got to do with us and the church today? The answer comes loud and clear – Immoral conduct is one of the greatest barriers in the Christian life and growth. What is the difference between the Christian married couple and the sinner married couple? Many Christians are not free from the aphrodisiac behavior. There should be a vast difference between Christian marital behavior and sinner

marital behavior. Christ does give the Christian the strength to resist participating in things which are considered erotic. Brother Paul, speaking to the Corinthian brethren said:

“Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: Ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.” I Cor. 10:21

Some Christians even secretly participate in abortion and various sinful methods of birth control. Part of the worship of Baalim and Ashtoreth and Moloch included the offering of children as sacrifice.

The fellowship in the temple of Aphrodite was one which entailed eating and drinking and sacraments of offering the body to fornication. Paul had to write a letter to the church to get them to abstain from using their freedom to visit the temple of Aphrodite and to participate in the uncleanness which was part of their worship.

One of the sad verses of the Bible, yet one that blesses us with warning is I Kings 11:5 – *“For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians and after Milcom the abomination of the Amorites.”* It does not take much imagination to see that it is the same sex gods of the ancient world which are oppressing the modern people and the church today. Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, fell, but thank God in Jesus Christ we have the wisdom of the Holy Spirit which is greater than Solomon. Those who are baptized in the Holy Ghost have a hard fight to keep upright and pure in God much less those who are not, and especially those who receive the salvation of Jesus Christ, but reject the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The temple we are talking about is our spirits, souls and bodies.

HOW DO WE GET PURE?

Assume that all those who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ are pure at the outset. The scriptures show that the word used for impure or unclean in most places by the apostle Paul is “akatharsis,” “a” as a prefix means “un” and “katharsis” means “cleansed.” When both are put together it gives the distinct meaning that the person or persons were once cleansed but have become uncleansed. Once we recognize the fact that we need a cleansing, then that is the first of being pure. The second step would be to know that it is the will of God that we be cleansed and be pure, and we need only to ask in order to receive. It is true that we might not actually enjoy God’s processes or His methods, but if we believe He is God and that He answers prayers, then we will rejoice in the fire, knowing that it works together for good.

SPIRITUAL CLEANSING:

It is possible to be clean in ones spirit and not pure in the soul. When one accepts Jesus Christ as his personal savior, he receives the cleansing of the blood. This means that his sins are forgiven and he is given a new nature which strengthens him towards obeying the Spirit. When he is baptized in the Holy Spirit, this position is enhanced. BUT the Glory of God which is in his spirit is not immediately revealed in his soul. (Mind, Emotions, Will, Desires). The regenerated soul, must open up itself to the ministration of the Spirit before this area is illuminated. This is the reason the scripture encourages the believer to "think pure." Purity will not only remain in the area of the thinking, but the Emotions must be kept pure if we hope for purity. Impure actions of all kinds will cause impurity in the inner man. We know that we, in time past, participated in all manner of impurity and sinful acts and desires. If therefore we must be pure we must get rid of desiring impure things.

I know a young man who was constantly hounded by a vicious spirit of lust. He hated the thing but time after time was caught up in sin. He became like a trapped animal, since he wanted to be righteous but was unable to control the forces which were driving him. He came for counsel and I asked him to tell me about the girls which he admired. There were two distinct types: One was the sedate Christian girl and the other was the worldly overdressed and overpainted typed of Christian. I asked which of these he felt more drawn towards. He said the latter. This girl represented the desire in him that did not want anything too godly. It represented his fantasy and his own carnality. He went on a fast and God helped him to go home and marry the right person.

Have we got rid of our ungodly fantasies? Reader please face the issue today:

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

It is not possible to see God without purity. "Pure Gold" is the type of God's nature.

I know of an evangelist who was very successful in the preaching of the word and the winning of souls, but he never got rid of the desire to be in a particular position in life: as soon as he got enough money from his ministry, he declared that God told him to create that business and have that position.

The Psalmist David could not trust his own heart, but he never fooled himself – he cried:

Psalms 139:23 "Search me oh God, and know my heart; try, me and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

IMPURITY - A PART OF NATURE:

Man is not by nature pure. Since Adam we have impure nature. In Christ we regain purity, but since the work of Christ is not yet complete in us, our purity is not complete. Does this mean that we cannot hope to be pure until we are completely changed? No, it does not mean that. It means that since we are already pure in the area of our spirits which is subject to the Holy Spirit, if we subject our souls to the Spirit we will be pure "even as He is pure."

May God richly bless this word to your hearts in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

