

# Pure

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by Wayne Goff

*“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things” ~ Philippians 4:8.*

In Philippians 4:8, the apostle Paul uses the Greek word {hagnos} which means “pure from every fault; immaculate” (*Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon*). So he exhorts us to think on things that are immaculate and pure in every way. This is important to those of us who live in a **crooked, perverse** world (Phil. 2:15). But then again, isn’t the gospel invitation to all who would come to God and “*be saved from this perverse generation*” (Acts 2:40)? Indeed, we have been washed clean of our sins that we might arise to live in newness of life, and part of that includes thinking on pure things – things pure from every fault; immaculate. God, heaven and all things connected to these two things are *pure*. Newborn babies are born *pure*. The apostle Paul wanted the church in Corinth to be presented to Christ “*as a chaste (pure) virgin*” (2 Cor. 11:2). The present world scoffs at these things. But God’s wisdom is “*first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy*” (James 3:17). That kind of wisdom is rare even among brethren, isn’t it? The wisdom from above **begins** with purity.

The beloved apostle John gives us a beautiful motivation for seeking this kind of pureness. “*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure*” 1 John 3:2–3. We **want** to see Jesus when He returns. We **want** to be like Him when He returns. Therefore we *strive* to be **pure** just as He is **pure**. It seems to be a tall order, but there is no other way to do it.

“*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded*” James 4:8. Double-mindedness is the opposite of a *pure heart* in James 4:8. So perhaps single-mindedness is the idea here. Make up your mind to serve the Lord and pursue Him instead of sinfulness.

[This brief article did not even consider another Greek word {katharos} translated “*pure*” or “*clean*.” It is similar in meaning, and suggests “free from anything that soils, adulterates, or corrupts.”]

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