

Handout #1, Lesson 8

Blessed are the pure of heart for they will see God.

We must begin by purifying ourselves before purifying others; we must be instructed to be able to instruct, become light to illuminate, draw close to God to bring him close to others, be sanctified to sanctify, lead by the hand and counsel prudently. St. Gregory of Nazianzus, Oratio 2, 71 as quoted in CCC# 1589

Blessed are those who observe his instructions, who seek him with all their hearts...
Psalm 119:2 [New Jerusalem translation]

Who may go up the mountain of the LORD? Who can stand in his holy place? The clean of hand and pure of heart... Psalm 24:3-4

A clean heart create for me, God; renew in me a steadfast spirit. Psalm 51:12 (10)

What does Scripture teach about the heart?

1. What does the Bible teach about the heart in Psalm 17:3; 1Samuel 16:7; and Psalm 44:22 (21)?
2. What does the Bible teach about the heart in Ezekiel 36:26-27; Psalms 51:12(10), 19 (17); and Jeremiah 4:4; 31:31-33?
3. What does the Bible teach about the heart in Deuteronomy 4:29; Psalms 105:3; and Psalm 119:2, & 10?
4. What does the Bible teach about the heart in 1Kings 3:9; Hosea 2:16; and Deuteronomy 30:11-14?
5. What does the Bible teach about the heart in 1 Samuel 12:20, 24; Deuteronomy 6:5-6; and Psalm 111:1?

Psalm 24:1-10 defines the character the worshippers who are clean of heart.

- They can stand before God and offer Him worship [verse 3].
- They do not worship idols; either material or spiritual [verse 4].
- They do not lie or make false promises [verse 4].
- Their reward will be blessings and justice [verse 5].
- They love God and “seek His face” = do His will [verse 6].

Question: Who is the “King of Glory” in verse 7?

Handout #2, Lesson 8:

Question for group discussion:

The clean of heart are those who have souls of righteousness. Read the contrast of the righteous man as opposed to the man who in clings to wickedness in Wisdom 1:1- 3:11.

Question: Is what comes out of one's mouth a good way to determine "purity of heart?" What are those words from one's mouth that indicate a "heart cleaning" is in order through repentance and prayer?

Question: Is what one's mind and eyes are drawn to also a factor in determining "purity of heart?" Why?

Question: Some family traits are inherited: eye color, hair color, natural abilities. Other traits are learned: truthfulness, sincerity, honesty, dealing with anger, etc. What traits have we inherited through our baptism from our Heavenly Father? What traits are learned from Mother Church? How should we struggle against that inherited trait from the family of Adam called "concupiscence"? Concupiscence = a word from the Latin, *con* = thoroughly + *cupere*, to desire. As defined by the Modern Catholic Dictionary concupiscence is "*The insubordination of man's desires to the dictates of reason, and the propensity of human nature to sin as a result of original sin.*" There are two aspects to concupiscence:

1. Concupiscence of the Eyes = "*Unwholesome curiosity and an inordinate love of this world's goods. The first consists in an unreasonable desire to see, hear, and know what is harmful to one's virtue, inconsistent with one's state of life, or detrimental to higher duties*" and the other is
2. Concupiscence of the Flesh = "*The inordinate love of sensual pleasure, to which fallen man is naturally prone.*"

www.AgapeBibleStudy.com