

Review

- In the Old Covenant, God laid out how He expected the Israelites to approach Him in worship
 - He was so serious about these standards that if you ignored them, you put your life at risk
 - Leviticus 10:3 –...Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.
- Ephesians 5:15 – Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise...
- New Testament Standard: A Life of Holiness
 - Hebrews 12:14 – Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

2) A Heart of Purity

- Psalm 24:3-4 – 3 Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.
 - “pure” = can also be translated “innocent, clean, clear...”
 - Verse 4 connects having a pure heart with the idea of not trusting in idols or swearing allegiance to false gods
- Psalm 66:18 – If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened
 - “cherish” = our English word comes from the Latin for “beloved”
 - Song of Songs 6:3 – I am my beloved’s and he is mine...
 - But if we cherish sin or idolatry in our hearts, it’s like we’re singing to God, “I am my Beloved’s... but he’s not mine.”
- Two Aspects of Purity
 - 1) Unmixed, undiluted, untainted
 - There is a big difference between having a pure substance and something that is tainted, mixed, diluted
 - 2) Genuine, authentic, real, not fraudulent
 - Something that is impure looks like the real thing, but because other things are mixed in, it’s not genuine
 - There is a big difference between something that is pure and genuine and something that is an artificial substitute
- Hebrews 10:22 – Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart...
 - “sincere” = in Greek it means “truthful”... “real”... not counterfeit
- James 4:8 – Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
 - If you want to come near to God, He will come near to you, but you’ve got to...
 - 1) “wash your hands” (do righteous acts... live a holy life)
 - 2) “purify your heart”
- Jesus Makes Our Hearts Pure
 - Hebrews 10:19-22 – 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.
 - In the Old Covenant, the Priest would sprinkle blood or water on people or items in order to purify them
 - In the New Covenant, Jesus, our High Priest, has sprinkled our hearts to cleanse us

- We provide a sincere heart, we provide faith in Jesus our High Priest and Sacrificial Lamb, but He is the one who sprinkles our hearts to actually purify us and cleanse us of a guilty conscience
- Ezekiel 36:25–27 – 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 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. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
 - When Peter reported on how God poured His Spirit on the Gentiles at Cornelius’ house, he said, “he purified their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:9)
- It’s not about you trying harder but about you receiving what Jesus has done for you