

Texts: Luke 6:43ff and Jas. 1:19ff

Title: Purity and Peace

Date: October 12, 2025 CCBL

Intro:

As the Lord continues to guide us, we anticipate a change in our status as a church. We will no longer be a mission church, depending on finances and leadership from outside. We will be an established body of Christ, relying on the Lord to see people saved and transformed in BL. This is an exciting time and there are some here today who have come to saving faith in Christ.

As you know, we have an enemy who schemes against us. Satan will oppose us as we see people brought from his darkness into the light and life of Jesus. We know that Jesus has defeated him and in the end we will see that defeat completely executed. But for now we have a role to play in the fight.

What is one of his primary schemes? How might he work to damage and undermine the life and mission of a church? One of his frequent strategies is through conflict and disunity. Very often he uses our words to carry out that plan. If you noticed, those who are joining the church promise to pursue purity and peace as we relate to one another. Today we want to look at the Scriptures and make a plan to fight against the devil's schemes. This will apply not only to the church but also to families, schools and work.

Thesis: Through Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives believers peace and purity of heart which overflows in peaceful, pure speech.

I. Cultivate peace and purity of heart.

Explan: 43“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, 44for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. 45The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Jesus uses a very clear illustration. A tree produces fruit according to its kind. You don't get walnuts from apple trees. He double illustrates with figs and grapes. I had to look up brambles. Blackberries are in that family. We find that the fruit he is talking about is our speech, how we speak with our mouths. According to Jesus what we speak is directly related to our hearts. If in our emotions, thoughts, and wills there is evil, we speak evil. If there is good in our hearts, we produce good speech.

Illus/Teach. In Mark 7 Jesus and the disciples are being criticized for not doing ceremonial washing of hands. Jesus tells them that uncleanness is not on the outside to be cured by washing, but rather on the inside, in the heart. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. So we have by nature a heart problem that we can't fix.

Gospel here. New covenant, new heart. Now a fight. By the Holy Spirit we can follow the dictates of our new nature or old.

Illus: Heart transplant. Immunosuppressives. New heart must be tended to.

Applic: How do we cultivate and care for new heart.

1. Faith. Believing justification, adoption, union with Christ. Experiencing the love of God. Enjoying his mercy. This purity.

2. Repentance. Surrender. This is peace. Give up control. Accept people as they are.

Trans: Jesus tells us that if by the Holy Spirit your heart is enjoying these good things your speech will follow. James gives us some details

II. Cultivate peace and purity of speech.

Explan: 19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Explain text.

Illus: Lexington County. Church split over graveyard management.

Applic:

1. When you have concerns about another person or some matter within the church, go directly to the person. I would like to ask you to make a commitment. If you are concerned about something involving leadership in the church, don't spread discontent. God directly to an elder. This text tells us that when you go, listen. We all want to practice beginning those conversations with, "Help me to understand."

2. If you have a misunderstanding with another person, go directly to them. Don't enlist elders or deacons to carry your concerns unless after going directly and trying to understand, you can't resolve it.

3. Misunderstandings with Kent. Alienated from preaching.

4. The text doesn't say don't speak. It says be slow to speak.

5. Glory of God and relationships in the local body. How the gospel in the heart gives us courage, mercy, and release of control.

Summary: