

"Purity, Peacemaking, and Persecution" Matthew 5:8-12 <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Matthew 5:8-12** 

#### Big Idea

Jesus Christ is the pure and spotless Lamb.

He made a way for us to have peace with God enduring persecution on the cross for His people. Therefore, Christians should live a certain way because we have been called by this certain One.

I. Christians, Seek to Be Pure for We Know the One Who Purifies Us.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

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- Those who have been changed inwardly will certainly be changed outwardly.
  - Yahweh knows the hearts of men.

<sup>7</sup>But Yahweh said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but Yahweh looks at the heart."

1 Samuel 16:7

<sup>2</sup>Every man's way is right in his own eyes, But Yahweh weighs the hearts.

Proverbs 21:2

### I. Christians, Seek to Be Pure for We Know the One Who Purifies Us.

<sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts, for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.

Luke 16:15

9"The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can know it? Jeremiah 17:9

<sup>7</sup>Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Psalms 51:7

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- Purity is always an indicator of fellowship with God. No one else can purify.
- Lloyd-jones- "no one else can see God, because only the pure in heart could stand the sight of Him, to look at God is Hell to a man unless he has been made pure of heart."

<sup>3</sup>And there will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His slaves will serve Him; 4and they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

Revelation 22:3-4

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

1 John 3:2

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- Is your heart pure? Apart from Christ it is not!
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- Guard your hearts Church and know that He wants them pure and can make them pure.

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- Elizabeth Elliot- "if your goal is to pure of heart be prepared to be thought very odd"

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II. Christians, Seek to Make Peace for We Know the One Who Made Peace for Us

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9

- Peacemaking is a Christian characteristic.

### II. Christians, Seek to Make Peace for We Know the One Who Made Peace for Us

<sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups one and broke down the dividing wall of the partition

**Ephesians 2:14** 

<sup>5</sup> And this One will be peace. When the Assyrian enters our land, When he treads on our citadels, Then we will raise against him Seven shepherds and eight princes of men. Micah 5:5

<sup>79</sup>To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To direct our feet into the way of peace."

**Luke 1:79** 

- II. Christians, Seek to Make Peace for We Know the One Who Made Peace for Us
- Those who know real Peace, will be seeking to make peace, so that others might know Him.

<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord,

**Hebrews 12:14** 

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  - Luther- "Peace if possible, the truth at all costs"

### II. Christians, Seek to Make Peace for We Know the One Who Made Peace for Us

<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Matthew 10:34

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

II. Christians, Seek to Make Peace for We Know the One Who Made Peace for Us

<sup>2</sup> He has set My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; And He has also set Me as a select arrow; He has hidden Me in His quiver.

Isaiah 49:2

And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the wrath of the rage of God, the Almighty.

Revelation 19:15

- II. Christians, Seek to Make Peace for We Know the One Who Made Peace for Us
  - Can peace be made by way of the sword?

III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Matthew 5:10-11

- The blessed life is tied to suffering for the sake of righteousness.

# III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

<sup>22</sup> And you will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.

Matthew 10:22

<sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Philippians 1:29

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

2 Timothy 3:12

III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

John 15:18

- How is this good news? It is good news because the work of God is evident in your life!

# III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

- How is this good news? It is good news because the work of God is evident in your life!
- Jc Ryle- "true Christianity will cost a man the favor of the world. He must be content to thought of I'll by man if he pleases God. He must count it no strange thing to be mocked, ridiculed, slandered, and even hated."

 Persecution can and will come in all types of ways to the Christian.

# III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

- Persecution can and will come in all types of ways to the Christian.
  - Persecution is a testimony of our King.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:12

# III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

- We can rejoice and be exceedingly glad for at least 2 reasons:
  - 1. The reward is great.
    - 2. We are not alone.

<sup>19</sup> For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him—whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 1:19-20

III. Christians, Rejoice in Persecution Because We Know the One Who Was Persecuted for Us.

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their witness, and they did not love their life even to death.

Revelation 12:11

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.

#### Conclusion

**G.** The Gospel Definition

H. Christian, what impact are you making for Christ and His kingdom?