

Scripture: Matthew 5:8

I. Holiness Equals Happiness

A. **Happy**

1. "Blessed" = Happy
2. Happy because they will see God not only in the afterlife but in their everyday life
 - a. Only the pure in heart shall see God

B. **Heart**

1. Considered the governing center
 - a. Source of motives
 - b. Seat of passions
 - c. Center of thought
 - d. Spring of conscience

C. **Holy**

1. *Katharos* = to make pure by cleansing from dirt, impurity, or contamination
 - a. Often used of metals
 - b. Catharsis = cleansing of the mind and/or emotions
 - c. *Castus* (Latin) = Chaste = to be purified from wrong behavior
 - d. Single mindedness, undivided loyalty, complete devotion
 - i. Double mindedness (Matt. 6:24)
 - ii. Friendship with the world (James 4:4)
 - 1) "The problem of sin is not primarily the world around us but the worldliness within us"[1]
 - 2) We must allow the Lord to cleanse us of this (James 4:8)
 - e. Single mindedness does not simply mean sincerity
 - i. You can be sincerely wrong
 - 1) Priests of Baal
 - 2) Pharisees
 - 3) Pagan religions
 - a) Human achievement VS Divine accomplishment
 - i) Head religion or Hand religion VS Heart religion
2. Call to holiness
 - a. Jesus (Matt. 5:48)
 - b. Peter (1 Peter 1:15-16)
 - c. Paul (Rom. 12:1)
3. Kinds of Purity
 - a. Primal purity = exists only in God as part of his being/nature
 - b. Created purity = the purity of creation that existed prior to The Fall

- c. Imputed purity = purity of Christ that is given to us when we trust in and surrender to Jesus
- d. Actual purity = the purity that comes with becoming a "new creation"
- e. Practical purity = pure living
 - i. Requires our participation
- f. Ultimate purity = glorification

D. How to

1. Confess Weakness (Matt. 11:28)
 - a. At the moment of salvation
 - b. Each day
 - c. Recognized weakness should not lead to quitting but to equipping
2. Consume the Word
 - a. Contemplate (Ps. 1:1-2)
 - b. Keep (Ps. 119:9)
3. Controlled by the Spirit
 - a. Thinking (Rom. 8:5)
 - b. Doing (Gal. 5:16)
4. Continual Prayer
 - a. Confession (1 John 1:9)
 - b. Continued guidance (Matt. 6:13, Luke 22:40)
 - c. Cleansing (Ps. 51:10)

[i]MacArthur, John , The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Matthew 1-7, (Moody Bible Institute, Chicago. 1985) p. 207