MARKED
BIBLE STUDY

DEFINITION

PURITY
/ˈPYo͞ORəDĒ/

free of any contamination,
unmixed with any other matter; spotless, stainless

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:5

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry."

BIG IDEA

Daniel 1 tells the story of four young Hebrew boys who were taken captive by a pagan king in a heathenistic society. They were ordered to conform and accept the culture around them. But at the expense of their lives—they refused to compromise their faith and dishonor God. Instead, they "purposed in their heart to not defile themselves." In the same way, we are called to be in the world but not of the world. 2 Corinthians 6:17 says "come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean." Being separate doesn't mean being a hermit, disconnected, or unfriendly. It means we think and act differently from the rest of society. It means we carefully guard our lives from impurity and perversion. As believers, we must be a model of Christ and His holiness to the world. Clearly, we are commanded to love the world and be a witness of the gospel, but we also must intentionally separate ourselves from sin and contamination, and steer clear of unclean things. More so, we are commanded to put those things to death.

The word pure simply means "free from mixture and contamination, clean." Purity is not perfection. It is a choice to not defile or contaminate our mind, body, and spirit with the ways of the world. Purity is a commitment of consecration and sanctification. Consecration, which means to make holy, is our process of dedicating ourselves to a higher purpose. We are purified by the process of sanctification by deliberately turning from sin and being set free.

In order to overcome this perverse world and our fallen nature, we must make a choice. We must purpose in our hearts to "not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Ask God to renew your mind, to cleanse and purify it! Learn to take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ. Secondly, just say NO! No to sin and compromise. We can learn from Joseph when he ran from sin when he was put in a compromising situation. He said, "how then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" He had a personal conviction and relationship with God that became his compass which steered him on a course to purity. In Titus 2:12 "it teaches us to say 'no' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age..." Just say NO ...or in biblical terms resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Finally, we find the third key in James 4. "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." In order to live pure, we must be intimately connected to God and continually filled with the Holy Spirit. He empowers us to overcome sin and temptation and live victorious in Christ.

CONVERSATION

In Matthew 5:8 it says "blessed are the pure at heart for they will see God." What do you think the author means in this verse?

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What can we learn from Daniel and Joseph in the area of purity?

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Are there things in your life that are contaminating or defiling you? Have you been living a life of mixer or compromise? How has that affected your relationship with God?

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TAKE AWAY

KEYS TO BEING MARKED BY PURITY

Repent: confess and turn away from sin

Remove: eradicate any defiled or impure things from your life

Replace: incorporate kingdom-filled activities into your daily practice

Renew: read the word and declare it over your life, and be filled with the Holy Spirit

My husband and I always said the more you have of God the less you will have of the world. The more you have of the world the less you have of God. We are called to "set an example for the believers in (1) speech, in (2) conduct, in (3) love, in (4) faith, and in (5) purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Determine today to do a better job setting an example to those around in these five areas.

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NOTES