

In the series “Bless This Home” we’ve been applying a few of these beatitudes from Jesus’ sermon on the mount to our homes. We started with “Blessed are the Homes that Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.” Then last week on Family Worship Day our BC Kids minister, Valerie Padgett, joined us as we talked about “Peacemakers.” Not just Peacekeepers, but Peacemakers.

Today we are coming back up one and looking at **“Blessed are the Pure in Heart.”**

Jesus taught in **Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

Since we all desire Blessed Homes, we should strive for homes of purity.

How many of you have ever been robbed? It’s a bad feeling of losing something, feeling sorrow for what was lost. But I was surprised by the feeling of being violated. Someone failed to respect my things, my rights, my privacy, and yes, they violated the peace in my life and home.

We all take precautions in our homes to protect our material possessions and to keep our families safe. And yes, we should want to protect our families, but God not only wants us to protect our families physically and materially. He also wants us to protect our homes morally.

Just like we can be robbed physically, I believe we have a spiritual enemy who wants to rob our families of their purity, to break in, to kill, steal and destroy their innocence and their trust.

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

How is the purity of your home? If there used to be purity in your home, where did it go? Do you feel like someone robbed your home of purity? The devil doesn’t knock on your door and demand your purity. He works in other ways. TV (The False Prophet) / Entertainment choices (F word) / The distractions of life / unconfessed sins / unforgiveness.

Jesus is telling us if we want to have blessed homes we will be **pure** (clean) **in heart**, (your thoughts, mind, will, and emotions) and what will happen when we do? **“...for they will see God.”**

See God? Remember God and impurity don’t share the same space. If we want to see God showing up in our homes, we will seek to have pure hearts resulting in purity in our families and homes.

WITHOUT CHRIST, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A PURE HEART.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? NKJV - “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Without Christ people’s hearts are deceitful and wicked and they will never “see God.”

But we also need to know that God searches and sees what’s in all of our hearts.

Jeremiah 17:10 “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.

Even in Christ Jesus we need to guard our hearts, keep our hearts from getting hard, and make sure that we don’t lose our sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit and not live like the lost live.

Ephesians 4:17-18 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. (People without Christ Jesus have some messed up thinking!) **18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.** (The problem with a hard heart is that it is insensitive. Insensitive to the voice of God and the conviction of the Holy Spirit.)

Ephesians 4:19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

Are we darkened in our understanding? Our theme this year is Shine but is Jesus shining in our homes?

- If our home becomes a dark place, there will be a lot of stumbling around.
- The problem is that we have the ability adjust to the darkness, like waking into a movie theater our eyes adjust. And when we adjust to the darkness in our home, it really doesn't seem that dark anymore and we are living in deception.

If our homes are in darkness, we make some bad insensitive decisions.

- We let our 15-year-old daughter go on a car date with a guy you've never met.
- We allow our 14-year-old son to have smart phone with unlimited access to the internet including porn.
- We give our kids money for movies and music that you know nothing about. Unvetted.

Next Step: This week I will honestly assess the level of purity in my home and strive to create a culture of purity.

CREATING A CULTURE OF PURITY

1. GET YOUR OWN HEART RIGHT

In this series we have already said our children's relationship with Jesus will be modeled after our relationship with Jesus.

- A child's hunger and thirst for righteousness will be based on their parent's hunger and thirst.
- Children will only be peacemakers when their parents model how to be a peacemaker.
- Also understand that the standard for purity in a home will be set by the parents.

"Parents need to understand why a life of purity is better for the family and they must teach it and demonstrate it in all they do." Mandy Groeschel, 17 years old.

Some impurities are obvious, others are more subtle or hidden from others. But each of us know how pure or impure our thoughts and actions are- and every one of us are responsible to do two things:

A. Confess Your Sins and Be Purified **1 John 1:8-9** **8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

B. Guard Your Own Heart.

Proverbs 4:23 **Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**

This is something that we must all do, and everything must be weighed out according to God's Word. The gate, if you will, must be the truth found in God's Word and God's Ways.

- People like to say, "Let your conscious be your guide." The problem with this is that many people's conscious is seared.
- Some say, "Well doing this doesn't bother me" But maybe it should bother you.

Sometimes we find ourselves rationalizing anything impure:

"All my friends do it. Is just in my thoughts not my actions... it's ok if I watch this or read that. These games aren't really that bad. The language I hear doesn't bother me, I hear that every day and sometimes I use that language too!"

Don't rationalize. Admit it's wrong and don't allow it in your heart.

2. GUARD THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAMILY

Just like you would fight for your family against a physical intruder that meant to harm them, so fight for the purity of your family. Don't let anything in that will cause them to stumble and fall spiritually.

1 Peter 5:8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

- **God's Word and His Ways Are the Path to Purity Psalms 119:9-11 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.**

How can our family stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. We will seek you with all of our hearts; do not let us stray from your commands. (Ps 119:9-10 Edited toward family.)

- **Parent to The Heart.** (Most people parent to the actions.)

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Jesus focused on heart. **Matthew 15:19 For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.**

The Pharisees (Hypocrites) focused on the outside.

Matthew 23:25 "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!"

One of the biggest mistakes we can make in parenting is to focus on outward only.

- Your children might be showing outward submission and have a lot of inward rebellion.

Right actions come from a right heart.

Next Step: This week as a family we will have an honest talk about purity and set some safeguards in our homes for protection and the continued blessing of God.

3. GUARD THE HEARTS OF YOUR CHURCH FAMILY.

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

How much impurity can we allow into our hearts, the hearts of our family and the church?

Anything less than perfect purity is impurity.

Think of impurity as poison. Do we say, "How much poison can I eat and still get be ok?"

Do we reason, "How much impurity can we let in and still be ok?" "How much sin can we allow in the church and still experience the presence and blessing of God.?"

Remember the lesson every family with a baby has had to learn... A little poop goes a long way.

What if we are impure, hardhearted, and insensitive to sin?

- Know that God can change any heart.
Ezekiel 36:26 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.
- Ask God to create a pure heart within you.
Psalms 51:10-12 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

I want to see the presence of God in my home. Don't you?

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.