**Create in Me a Clean Heart**

*Psalm 51:10*

**Introduction**

1. **1 Samuel 13:14** – Samuel to Saul after his sin in offering an unlawful sacrifice – concerning David.
   1. He loved God with his whole heart.
   2. He sought after God always.
   3. He longed for the things of God.
   4. He hated what God hated.
   5. He trusted in God.
   6. He was obedient to God in all things.
2. **2 Samuel 12:7-9** – Nathan to David after telling a parable which incited David’s anger – lusted after Bathsheba, sent for her, committed adultery, tried to cover it up, had Uriah murdered.
3. An important question – How did David go from being a man after God’s own heart to committing such heinous sins?
4. Also an important question – How did David come back from such ungodly acts? How could he regain his description of being a man after God’s own heart?
5. David’s Psalm, and request – **Psalm 51:10** – he asked, among other things said, that God would create in him a clean heart.
6. How would God do this for David? How can God do this for us?
   1. NOTE: This is something David asked God to do, but we must understand how God operates in matters of faith and salvation – **Philippians 2:12-13** – God works in us as we work out our own.
7. The Importance of a Clean Heart
8. Out of it springs the issues of life
   1. **Proverbs 4:23** – we are to keep it because matters of life flow from it.
      1. Keep – watch, guard.
      2. We have to set a watch on our heart at all times. Guard it.
      3. All that we say or do proceeds from the heart – if it is tainted, that which comes forth is tainted.
   2. **Mark 7:21-23** – Jesus taught this truth – sin starts from within.
   3. Jesus taught that an inner cleansing would take care of the outer filth – **Matthew 23:25-26**
      1. This is why David fell so far – His heart became impure, and his actions followed.
      2. If his heart was pure he would not have committed these sins.
9. Only the pure in heart will see God
   1. We need a clean heart if we wish to see God – **Matthew 5:8**
      1. God is pure, and will only associate with the pure.
   2. Paul instructed Timothy to be an example in purity – **1 Timothy 4:12**
      1. This was to save his self and those who heard him – **v. 16**
      2. Pure – *hagneia* from the same root as *hagios* (holy) (**cf. 1 Peter 1:15** – be holy as God is holy.)
   3. In order to have fellowship with God, especially to see Him in the end, we must have pure/holy hearts – separate from all uncleanness.
   4. One sin compromises that purity, and takes our fellowship with God away – **Acts 8:23** – Peter’s description of Simon after his sin.
   5. How do we come back from this? How will our hearts ever be pure again?
10. Creating a Clean Heart
11. Godly Sorrow
    1. Our sorrow about sin should come from our understanding that we have done this against God – **cf. Genesis 39:9** – Joseph understood this, so did not sin.
    2. David’s acknowledgment – **Psalm 51:4** – especially offense toward God.
       1. Sinned against Bathsheba, Uriah, etc.
       2. However, the sin was ultimately before God.
       3. **2 Samuel 12:13** – I have sinned against the Lord.
       4. **Psalm 51:17** – our heart must be broken before God.
    3. Godly sorrow vs sorrow of the world – **2 Corinthians 7:9-10**
       1. One leads to repentance and salvation.
       2. The other leads to death. (Sorry for getting caught, for hurting another simply, etc.)
    4. We need to grasp the severity of our sin in order to keep it out of our hearts, and the only way to do that is to acknowledge it on the level that pertains to God.
12. Confession
    1. We must own up to the fact of our sin – **Psalm 51:3-4** – as did David.
       1. Godly sorrow always leads to a confession of sin.
       2. Worldly sorrow seeks to cover it up – which compounds the sin – **Proverbs 28:13**
    2. A heart that refuses to acknowledge is own shortcomings is not free from the impurity of such.
    3. **1 John 1:8-10** – We must not deny our sin.
       1. **(v. 8)** – can’t say that what we did had no effect on our soul. (without consequence – God doesn’t care)
       2. **(v. 10)** – can’t say that what we did wasn’t sin. (This specific sin is not really sinful.)
       3. **(v. 9)** – must confess sins – NOT THAT WE HAVE SINNED – WE NEED TO OWN UP TO WHAT WE SPECIFICALLY DID BEFORE GOD.
    4. Confession to each other – **James 5:16** – allows us to know what to pray for, produces accountability.
13. Repentance
    1. One with godly sorrow who confesses their sins will stop sinning – such is necessary for purity.
    2. The heart cannot be pure if sin is present – **James 4:8** – both must be cleansed/purified.
    3. Some say, “Yes I’m doing this, but Jesus knows my heart is good.”
       1. A claim to a pure heart with the presence of sin is impossible.
       2. SIN IS EVIDENCE OF AN IMPURE HEART – **Mark 7:21-23** – as Jesus said.
    4. Repentance is necessary – **Acts 8:22** – Peter to Simon.
    5. The kind of repentance necessary to engender purity in the heart – **Acts 19:18-20** – Those in Ephesus that burned their magic books.
       1. They discovered the truth through the preaching and miracles of Paul.
       2. They knew their religion was sinful.
       3. The completely eradicated their sinful paraphernalia.
    6. We can’t afford to keep sin on speed dial. We must erase it from our lives. Bonfire of repentance.
14. Forgiveness
    1. Some fail at cleansing their hearts because they don’t seek forgiveness.
       1. Some claim that they’re too bad to forgive.
    2. Seeking forgiveness is the only way to a clean heart.
    3. **Psalm 51:1-2** – without the mercy of God our hearts cannot be cleansed.
    4. We must go to God in prayer asking for forgiveness – **1 John 1:9; 5:14-17** – sin that is repented of will be forgiven.
    5. God will not shame us for asking for mercy. He will not turn us away. He will only give us what we need.
15. Pursuit of Righteousness
    1. One has said, “Idle hands are the Devil’s workshop.”
       1. We must be busy with the things of God or else we will find ourselves busy with something else.
       2. Idleness leads to turmoil – **Proverbs 24:30-34** – spiritual application to make.
    2. Pursue righteousness – **1 Timothy 6:11-16** – in contrast to the pursuit of material things.
       1. Pursue – same word translated into persecute – **cf. Acts 9:4; 8:3** – relentless pursuit of Christians by Paul to harass them.
       2. All our energy should be exerted toward gaining the things of God.
       3. We should be relentless in our pursuit of doing God’s word, and therefore, in our pursuit of heaven.
    3. If we are pursuing righteousness we will not have time or space for impurities.

**Conclusion**

1. We need to maintain a pure heart to keep from sin.
2. If we fail, and sin, we must seek purity.
3. God will cleanse our hearts if we comply with His will.