

New Caney
Church of Christ

(physical) 19351 FM 1485
(mail) P.O. Box 903
New Caney, TX 77357
281-399-5900
www.NewCaneyChurchofChrist.org

Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine

Evangelist: Charles Willis
281-841-5718
charleswillisNCCofC@gmail.com

Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Esau (Genesis 33:4)

2. Elijah (1 Kings 18:46)

3. Philip (Acts 8:30)

4. John (John 20:4)

5. Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4–5)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Ronnie Ramsey
Announcements: John Van Baale
Encouragement Talk: Josh Emerson
Opening Prayer: Billy Lovell
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Luke 16:1–18
Song Leader: Arturo Orozco
Table Talk: Sandon Spyker
Contribution: Gary Tuttle
Helper: Corwin Richardson
Fruit of Vine: Kevin Buckner
Helper: Gobi Warner
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer:

Sunday Afternoons

Dec 7 3PM Singing
Dec 14 Nothing
Dec 21 Nothing
Dec 28 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: John Franks
Speaker: Eddie Bowen



Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”
Ephesians 6:13

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How Do We Get A Pure Heart?

Purity is something that we deal with every day. We see products for sale that advertise 100% pure (like Orange Juice), with no additives or preservatives. We see the idea of purity in the sale of bottled water. Gold is refined to remove the impurities. Jesus taught, “blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8). We all want to see God, and desire to be pure in heart. How does a person achieve this purity? Does the Bible tell us what we must do to be pure in heart?

In the New Testament, a pure heart is a heart that is not divided. “There is no conflict of loyalties, no cleavage of interests, no mixture of motives, no hypocrisy and no insecurity” (New Bible Dictionary, Tyndale, p. 1002). According to Jesus, the world is not able to defile a man’s heart, but we are able to defile our own heart. *“That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man”* (Mark 7:20–23). The only control on our purity is ourselves. We can prevent our heart from being defiled by refusing evil things a place in our hearts. James 1:27 says, *“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”* We keep ourselves unspotted by refusing to allow evil a place in our heart. *“Everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”* (1 John 3:3). The Bible plainly teaches that we are responsible for our own purity.

But how do we become pure? Is it possible for a man to be pure? In most certainly IS possible or Jesus would not have said *“blessed are the pure in heart”* (Matthew 5:8). 1 John 3 continues to explain how we achieve and maintain a pure heart: *“Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him... No one who is born of God practices sin, because*

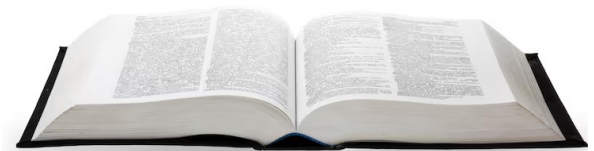
His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” (1 John 3:4–6, 9). We achieve purity when we do not sin. The child of God, a Christian, is born of God and His seed is in us. When we sin, we separate ourselves from God and we are no longer pure. As long as we allow sin to reign in our hearts we will not be pure.

The Old Testament use of the word pure had to do with sacrifices. There was a physical purification of washing the hands and preparing the sacrifice. This has not been changed to a spiritual meaning in the New Testament period. Just as the Israelites could not offer God a sacrifice that was blemished, we cannot offer God a heart that is defiled. We must serve Him with a singleness of mind, with “all your heart”, and absolute belief. Anything less is being double-minded. *“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”* (James 4:8).

Ultimately we all want to achieve purity so that heaven can be attained. It is not an easy process, but it is possible. The key is obedience, complete obedience. *“Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God”* (1 Peter 1:22–23). Let us allow our minds to dwell on things that are above, and not on things below. Perhaps then we will be able to maintain a pure heart and be pleasing to God.

by Charles Willis

Let all that you do be done in love.



1 Corinthians 16:14

Know Your Bible

Runners

1. What beligerant man ran to meet his brother and kissed him after a long time of separation?
2. Who outran a team of horses?
3. What evangelist ran to meet a foreign official in his chariot?
4. What disciple outran Peter to Jesus' tomb?
5. Who ran to Eli, the High priest, thinking he had called?

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



The Sacrifice of Jesus

by Charles Willis

Isaiah 53:7 prophesies God suffering servant would be *“like a lamb that is led to slaughter.”* A sacrificial lamb is the meaning. This was the passage being read by the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8 from which Philip preached Jesus to him. We know Jesus is compared to the sacrificial lamb. John the baptist confirmed this saying *“behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). An Old Testament sacrifice was given in the place of the one offering to seek atonement and forgiveness from God. Jesus is our sacrificial lamb.

This image of Jesus as a lamb continues in Revelation 5 where four living creatures and the twenty-four elders sang, *“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God”* (Rev. 5:9–10). His sacrifice was a “purchase”. Acts 20:28 says Jesus purchased the church *“with His own blood.”* The same principle is stated in 1 Corinthians 6:20, *“For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”* There was great purpose in Jesus' sacrifice. He told the apostles the fruit of the vine was *“My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins”* (Matthew 26:28). Poured out for my sins. Christ *“gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma”* (Ephesians 5:2).

So complete and perfect was Jesus' sacrifice that there is no need for another. Jesus does not need *“to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself”* (Hebrews 7:27). *“gave Himself as a ransom for all”* (1 Timothy 2:6).

By His perfect sacrifice we are redeemed *“with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ”* (1 Peter 1:19). *We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all* (Hebrews 10:10). *“While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life”* (Romans 5:10). This salvation is only because *“we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses”* (Ephesians 1:7). This is reiterated in Colossians 1:14, *“in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

“Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless” (Ephesians 5:25–27). Understanding the greatness of Jesus' sacrifice and its benefit to us, we should strive even more to be pure and holy.