**BIBLE - KEEPING YOURSELF PURE**

***1 TIMOTHY 5:22***

**INTRODUCTION** – People today are becoming increasing concerned with the purity of the church. This is indeed an important consideration but if we want the church to be pure we must recognize the importance of every Christian maintaining a life of purity.

Paul instructs Timothy to “keep yourself pure.” **1 TIM. 5:22 - *Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.***

Why did he give Timothy this exhortation? The direct statement of Paul by inspiration of the Holy Spirit indicates two things we can infer – 1.) Timothy is presently living a pure life – **1 PET. 1:22** – Purity in our lives can only be obtained thru an obedient faith and, 2.) Paul also realized that Timothy could be contaminated by the sin in the world and could falter in the future – **1 TIM. 1:18-20** - I.E. – Hymenaeus and Alexander.

***BIBLE - KEEPING YOURSELF PURE:***

1. **IS PURITY IMPORTANT** **TO GOD?**
2. **PSA. 24:3-4** – In order for us to be pleasing and acceptable to God purity in our lives is a must.
3. **PROV. 16:2** – Purity according to God’s standard not mine or yours.
4. **2 TIM. 2:22** – If we love the Lord and seek to serve him in righteousness, faith and peace, if we call on the Lord it will be the result of having a pure heart. We cannot call on the Lord without possessing a pure heart.
5. **PHIL. 4:8** – Purity is important because the apostle Paul instructs the Christians at Philippi to think pure thoughts. What about us do we think good thoughts? Do we clutter our thoughts? Beware of the danger of the internet – web sites, pornography, chat rooms etc.
6. **1 TIM. 4:12**- Purity is important enough that Paul commands Timothy to be an example of purity.
7. **IN WHAT WAYS** **SHOULD WE** **BE PURE?**
8. **MATT. 5:8** – HEART. If we fail to keep our hearts pure we will not see God. God does not tolerate sin. Remember the Bible heart is the mind.
9. **EPH. 4:29** – SPEECH. Is our language pure or is it the language of the world?
10. **1 PET. 2:11-12** – CONDUCT – Is our conduct honorable? Does our conduct in anyway distinguish us from the world? If not we are failing to maintain purity.
11. **TITUS 2:7** – DOCTRINE – Is our doctrine derived from the pure unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ or have we perverted the gospel? Do we have authority from the word of God for what we practice?
12. **1 TIM. 6:17-19** – TRUST – Is our trust completely in God or do we really place our trust in riches? All we have to do is look around and we can easily see what greed and trust in riches accomplishes.
13. **HOW DO WE** **KEEP OURSELVES** **PURE?**
14. **PROV. 4:23** – We must exercise caution and diligence. We must guard our heart because Satan seeks to devour us.
15. **ROM. 12:1-2** – We must not conform to the world. As God’s people we must dare to be different. I.E. – People of God wanted a king to be like the other nations. They conformed to the world, but Daniel dared to be different and would not eat food from the king’s table. They were willing to risk their lives to remain pure in the sight of God.
16. **1 JN. 2:15** – We cannot remain pure if we fall in love with the world. We must love God instead. We need to remember the greatest commandment – “to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind.”
17. **1 COR. 15:33** – If we are to remain pure we must guard our associations. Evil company will corrupt good habits (morals or manners).
18. **1 THESS. 5:21-22** – To remain pure we test all things by our standard the word of God. After it is proved if it is evil we must avoid or abstain from it.
19. **1 JN. 1:5-10** – By avoiding darkness, but we must do more than just avoid things that are evil. We must walk in the light. Practice living by the truth. When we do stumble then if we have a pure heart the sin we have committed will prick our heart and we will repent of it and confess it to God. Are you living a pure life in the eyes of God?

**CONCLUSION** –

Purity is important to God.

Are you keeping yourself pure?