

## The Condition of the Heart

Most of the things that we do give us a good indication of the condition of our heart. If our heart is pure, we will constantly work to do that which is good. If our heart is evil, we will not care about the good, and we will seek to please ourselves and the world around us. The important thing to note is that we cannot have both. Our heart will either be good or it will be evil. Jesus says that we cannot “*serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon*” (Mt. 6:24).

Because of this fact, Jesus warns us about having an impure heart. As He was talking with the scribes and the Pharisees, He says, “*But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. {19} For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. {20} These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man*” (Mt. 15:18-20). It is the things that come out of our hearts that will defile us.

For this reason, it is important to keep our heart pure. With all of the sinful things around us, this can be difficult. It seems that everywhere we turn, we see sin being promoted. It is often glorified on television shows. We hear songs on the radio that tell of the greatness of certain sins. We even see advertisements of sin as we travel down the interstate. Sin is everywhere, and we must work to keep our minds pure.

In *Phil. 4:8*, Paul tells us how to keep our minds pure. He says, “*Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-- meditate on these things.*” If we are going to keep our minds pure, we must meditate on the things of Christ. Even though sin is praised and promoted in this world, we must keep our minds pure.

When we fill our mind with unwholesome things, we will be more apt to do those things. However, if we fill our minds with that which is good, we will be more apt to do that which is good. The prayer of David needs to be our prayer today: “*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me*” (Ps 51:10). May we always work to keep our minds pure, so that we may be pleasing to God.