

## ***Qualities Of A Pure Heart #3: Honesty & Self-Control***

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### **Introduction**

1. As we continue our study of the pure heart, we are in the midst of examining qualities associated with the pure heart. Thus far we have seen how it is undivided, it prioritizes, is resolved and manifests integrity. In this lesson we will discuss two more- honest and self-control...

### **I. A Pure Heart Is Honest**

- a. What Is Honesty?
  - i. Honesty is fairness or straightforwardness of conduct; adherence to the facts (you can see how this relates to integrity).
- b. In All Things We Are To Be Honest...
  - i. Ephesians 4:25 – Remember a lie is a statement that is contrary to fact, spoken with the intent to deceive (John 8:44; Genesis 3:1)
  - ii. When we speak the truth, the Spirit of God works, but whenever we lie, Satan goes to work (Revelation 22:15, 21:8; 1 John 2:1; Acts 5:1-11)
  - iii. Examining and applying God’s word requires an honest heart (Luke 8:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:16)
  - iv. In our dealing with others – we are continually reminded to be a proper example (Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 8:21; Romans 12:17; Mathew 5:37)
  - v. In making judgments about others – Matthew 7:1-5 is about making dishonest judgments, prejudice, uninformed judgments, assuming the worst
  - vi. Don’t lie to yourself! Many are redefining terms to deceive (Matthew 15:3-6; condemning homosexuality Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:29)

### **II. A Pure Heart Exercises Self-Control**

- a. What Is Self-Control?
  - i. It means that one has mastered his desires and actions. Rather than being ruled by them.
- b. In All We Do, We Need Self Control
  - i. Every sin we commit involves our self-control. It leads to filled prisons, broken homes, damaged relationships, and speak evil things, etc.
  - ii. Self-control is vital to a pure heart and faith. It is behind poor bible study and prayer habits, disinterest in the church and the brethren, a general attitude of worldliness instead of godliness etc.
- c. In The Bible There Are Many Passages That Deal With Self-Control
  - i. James 3:2 – to control the body we first begin with the tongue
  - ii. 2 Peter 1:6 – in developing as Christians, it is added to our faith, virtue and knowledge.
  - iii. Galatians 5:23 – it is described as a “fruit of the Spirit”
  - iv. It is a quality of church leaders – 1 Timothy 3:2-18, 4:12-16; Titus 1:8
  - v. Titus 2:1-10 describes the conduct of God’s people
  - vi. 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 – it governs our lives so we may have eternal joys
  - vii. Other passages – Acts 24:25; Proverbs 25:28, 16:32
- d. How Does One Learn Self-Control (more details later, brief observations)
  - i. There is no magic formula – you must be determined to do it
  - ii. Take an honest spiritual inventory of your life (2 Corinthians 13:5)
  - iii. Realize the consequences of your decisions! Consider Luke 9:23
  - iv. You need to purify your heart! (James 4:8)
  - v. Make yourself do what you need to do (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)
  - vi. Deal with your distractions. Pray for wisdom and strength.
  - vii. The pure heart disciplines itself! (Matthew 7:16-20)