

Sermon Based Small Group Guide  
For May 1, 2022 sermon:  
***"The power of purity"***

**Warm up:**

1. Contamination of anything is a problem. We don't want contaminated gasoline in our vehicles. We don't want contaminated food in our stomachs. Do you have a personal story about a problem caused by contamination?
2. Given the impurity that is constantly around us, Pastor Craig raised the question, "Is purity really possible?" What is your perspective on how difficult this really is?

**Digging deeper:** (20-30 minutes)

1. The Pharisees in Jesus' day were living and promoting a religion that was built on God's Law, but they expanded it to add hundreds of additional rules and restrictions. Their belief, apparently, was that people weren't keeping the Law because it wasn't specific and detailed enough. Read Matthew 23:23-26 and discuss what Jesus said was wrong with their approach to "personal holiness". In contrast, read Jeremiah 31:33-34 and discuss the way (the ONLY way) that God says true and lasting change will happen in an individual.
2. We cannot change ourselves enough to be seen as "pure" by a completely holy God. He invites us to be joined with Christ who can and will change us from the inside out and make us completely acceptable to God. Read Hebrews 10:11-14 and discuss how Jesus accomplished for us what thousands of animal sacrifices were never able to. What is the key word in verse 14 that describes what made all the difference?
3. Purity is not just being "clean", it is being "undivided and undiluted" in our commitment to God. The Bible is very clear that being only partially committed God's ways will always cause problems. Re-read these passages that were shared in the message and talk about the problem of being less than 100% committed to doing things God's way. James 1:6-8   James 4:4-8   Matthew 6:24

**Apply it:** (10 minutes)

It probably doesn't take too much talk about purity to make the typical Christ-follower feel badly about how far short they fall. Having pure thoughts and motivations will be something of a struggle for all of us until we are in the very presence of God, but we must not let that discourage us from constantly striving for purity so that our lives truly honor Him. As you close your time together, read 1 John 1:9 and be reminded of the gift God has given us so that every moment of every day we can be clean before Him. As you close, thank Him for His generous forgiveness and for the purity possible because you are "in Christ" and are dressed in His righteousness!