

PURITY

Well, we have learned more about the Puritans, but what about “purity”? Of course, you don’t have to be a Puritan to have purity; after all, many things can be pure.

Advertising something as pure can be a real feature: bottled water is sometimes identified as pure; some ice cream products are made from pure cream or milk; while a host of other products are marketed as being pure in whatever constitutes purity.

Aside from these products, the application of purity in the letter is aimed at ourselves, our hearts, or minds, and our spirits. For these aspects of ourselves, purity does not mean that we are totally pure, clean, or without flaw; rather, purity is a desire or expectation that we pursue through our relationship with Christ. In the Book of James, the religion or practice of our faith is described as *pure and faultless* when, in part, we keep ourselves from *being polluted by the world*. Although we live in the world, we do have to be *of the world* or behave as the world (or the secular society) behaves. Christians are actually sojourners or are passing through the world toward eternity; thus, the focus, attention and pursuit should be toward living for and like Christ and the things that are eternal.

In the instructions to the church in the Book of Titus, young women are called to be self-controlled and pure...among other qualities. In Philippians, Paul encourages the church with the following passage: “Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things.

“To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure.”
- Titus 1:15

In 2 Corinthians, Paul address the church on the matter of false apostles by description that he desired to present them as *a pure virgin* – as one who accepted the true Jesus, the true Spirit and the true Gospel; but, in actuality, they were not pure, but has accepted false teaching from false apostles. Understanding, discerning and accepting the truth has much to do with the quest for purity.

Truth is necessary for purity; and the truth is found in the one who is absolutely pure, Jesus Christ.

In a **WORD**