

The Life of God in the Soul of Man – Lesson 7

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The Excellence and Pleasure of Purity

Purity is that _____ over ones more base desires (sinful or not) so that they do not hinder nor lead one away from that which is best (pursing the glory of God). When one is subject to their desires, they are said to be in _____ to sin. (Genesis 4:7, 2 Peter 2:19b)

“There is no slavery so base as that whereby a man becomes a drudge to his own lusts, nor any victory so glorious as that which is obtained over them.”

A man who is enslaved by things below cannot please the Lord. Impurity is the exact _____ of holiness.

“Never can that person be capable of anything that is noble or worthy, who is sunk in the gross and feculent pleasures of sense or bewitched with the light and airy gratifications of fancy. But the religious soul is of more sublime and divine temper; it knows it was made for higher things and scorns to step aside one foot out of the way of holiness for the obtaining of these.”

Not only is purity a most excellent element of the divine life but it also leads to much _____.

“Whatsoever defiles the soul disturbs it too; all impure delights have a sting in them and leave smart and trouble behind them.”

One striving to walk in purity will find that the _____ or removal of temporary enjoyments will not affect them as they once did because their soul now desires and craves for that which is higher.

The Excellence and Pleasure of Humility

Humility, while _____ in the sight of God is often frowned upon in the world. (Isaiah 66:2)

“The last branch of religion is humility, and however to vulgar and carnal eyes this may appear an abject, base, and despicable quality, yet really the soul of man is not capable of a higher and more noble endowment.”

“It is a silly ignorance that begets pride, but humility arises from a nearer acquaintance with excellent things, which keeps men from doating on trifles or admiring themselves because of some pretty attainments.”

Not only should humility arise from us simply because of our creatureliness but also the growing awareness of the power and prevalence of _____ sin also keeps us from ever boasting, except of course, the boast that is ours in Christ.

Pride and arrogance lead to all sorts of inner _____.

“The proud and arrogant person is a trouble to all that converse with him, but most of all unto himself; everything is enough to vex him, but scarce anything is sufficient to please him. He is ready to quarrel with everything that falls out, as if he himself were such a considerable person that God Almighty should do everything to gratify him, and all the creatures of heaven and earth should wait upon him and obey his will.”

“The leaves of high trees do shake with every blast of wind, and every breath, every evil word will disquiet and torment an arrogant man; but the humble person hath the advantage when he is despised, that none can think more meanly of him than he doth of himself, and therefore he is not troubled at the matter but can easily bear those reproaches which would the other to the soul.”

However, true humility before God leads to a profound and unspeakable _____.

“It is impossible to express the great pleasure and delight which religious persons feel in the lowest prostration of their souls before God; when, having a deep sense of the divine majesty and glory, they sink to the bottom of their beings, and vanish and disappear in the presence of God...”

The divine life in the soul of man is not a mere philosophical idea but it truly is a _____-a living, and powerful, new creation. Faith produces love to Him. Love to God leads to love to one's neighbor, growth in true purity, and increasing humility.