

The Values of His Kingdom - The Pure In Heart & The Peacemakers

I. Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

- a. The Greek word for "pure" in this passage, "*katharos*", can be defined as being ethically free from corrupt desires, sin, and guilt. In the New Testament, the word is used in various contexts:
 - i. To describe someone free from every admixture of what is false (e.g., **1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 Timothy 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:3**).
 - ii. To demonstrate genuineness (**James 1:27**) or qualities such as sincerity, blamelessness, and innocence (**Acts 18:6; Acts 20:26**).
 - iii. In a Levitical sense, it refers to cleanliness or the use of something that is not forbidden (**Luke 11:41**).
 - iv. Additionally, John uses "*katharos*" in his Gospel to describe a vine that has been cleansed by pruning so that it is fit to bear fruit. In the book of Revelation, he uses the term to describe gold purified by fire (**Revelation 21:18, 21**).
- b. The Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) frequently uses "*katharos*" throughout its text. Notably, it is used to describe the gold employed in constructing the Ark of the Covenant and the various components of Moses' Tabernacle (**Exodus 25**). This gold had to be refined and purified by fire to be fit for hosting the manifest presence of God. The key takeaway is that the manifest presence of God demands absolute purity, free from any mixture with impurity.

(Psalm 24:3-4 NASB) "Who may ascend onto the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? 4 One who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to deceit and has not sworn deceitfully."

- c. In scripture, "the heart" often functions as a synonym for the soul or mind, representing the fountain and seat of our thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavors (Proverbs 4:23). This highlights that this beatitude calls for more than mere religious or external purity—it addresses the deepest, most authentic, and unseen parts of who we are. Purity of heart means living with single-minded devotion, free from guilt and sinful desires, and aligning our entire being in harmonious agreement with God's thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, and endeavors.

(James 3:16-17 NASB) "For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure..."

- d. Our impurity has been hidden in Christ (**Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24**). We begin our journey in Christ with a heart that more deceitful than all else and desperately sick (**Jeremiah 17:9**). Through salvation, if we take refuge in Him, God views us through the lens of the perfect blood of His Son (**2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 1:22**). Yet, He remains committed to disciplining and refining us (**Hebrews 12:10-11; John 15:2; Malachi 3:3**) into His perfect image. Through sanctification, we become partakers of His holiness and purity (**2 Peter 1:4; Romans 8:29; Philippians 3:9**).

"We must take refuge from God in God. Above all we must believe that God sees us perfect in His Son while He disciplines and chastens and purges us that we may be partakers of His holiness" - A.W. Tozer

(1 Peter 2:24 NASB) "He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed."

(Colossians 1:22 NASB) "Yet He has now reconciled you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach"

(Hebrews 12:10-11 NASB) "...but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. 11 For the moment, all discipline seems not to be pleasant, but painful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterward it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."

II. They Will See God

- a. Jesus promised that the pure in heart will see God. In the Old Testament, both Jacob and Moses encountered God in profound ways. Moses saw God because he found "*favor with God*" (**Exodus 33:17–23**), while Jacob saw God because he "*wrestled*" with Him all night and contended for a blessing (**Genesis 32:24–32**). We find favor with God when we are humble, have a contrite spirit, and tremble at His Word—a reflection of a pure heart. Similarly, we can see God when we are willing to "*wrestle with Him*"—allowing ourselves to be confronted, refined, and shaped by Him—and when we relentlessly contend for His blessing and favor.

(Isaiah 66:2 NIV) "Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the Lord. "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word."

(Psalm 24:5-6 NASB) "He will receive a blessing from the Lord And righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face—even Jacob. Selah"

- b. Growing in purity of heart through God's grace is the pathway to healing from spiritual blindness. As we set our gaze on God, we naturally begin to "*declutter*" everything that hinders us—sin, selfish ambition, and lesser pleasures. By setting our minds on things above and putting on the "*new self*" through sanctification, we are transformed and able to lay hold of the glory of God revealed in the face of Jesus.

(Colossians 3:2-10 NASB) "Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. 5 Therefore, treat the parts of your earthly body as dead to sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is because of these things that the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, rid yourselves of all of them: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you stripped off the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created it"

*(2 Corinthians 4:3-6 NASB) "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants on account of Jesus. 6 For God, who said, "*Light shall shine out of darkness,*" is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*

- c. The ultimate fulfillment of the promise to "*see God*" lies in the age to come. When Christ returns, we will see Him face to face and behold His glory in its fullness.

(1 Corinthians 13:12 NASB) "For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known."

(1 John 3:2 NASB) "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is."

(Revelation 22:3-4 NASB) There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads"

III. Blessed Are The Peacemakers

- a. Biblical peace should be understood as a tranquil state free from rage, havoc, and disorder; it signifies a state of completeness and alignment. The Bible presents peace as the condition of our soul assured of its salvation through Christ, fearing nothing from God, and remaining content with earthly circumstances—whatever they may be.

(Romans 5:1 NASB) “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”

- b. There are generally three types of people when it comes to peace: peacebreakers, peacekeepers, and peacemakers. Peacebreakers actively sow seeds of contention, chaos, and disorder. Peacekeepers passively avoid conflict, often at the cost of true resolution. Peacemakers, however, actively step into places where there is no peace and work to establish it. Jesus said, *“Blessed are the peacemakers.”* Peacemakers are those who love peace and are committed to preserving and restoring it. They intentionally prevent strife, reconcile opposing parties, promote harmony, and bring order to places of chaos.

(Psalm 34:14 NASB) “Turn from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.”

- c. Jesus accomplishes His Kingdom work through partnership with ordinary believers like you and me. If you’ve ever wondered why God might lead you into situations filled with chaos and disorder, it’s because He’s inviting you to follow His example by creating peace where there is none. The gift of peace we receive through salvation isn’t just for us—it’s meant to be freely shared with everyone around us.

(Ephesians 14:19 NASB) “So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.”

IV. They Will Be Called Sons of God

- a. Our triune Godhead has peace attached to their name all throughout scripture. God is referred to as, “The Lord is peace (**Judges 6:24**)”, “Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**)”, “God of Peace (**Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20**)”, and “Lord of Peace (**2 Thessalonians 3:16**)”. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit eternally have this idea of peace attached to their identity.

(Isaiah 9:6 NASB) “For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.”

- b. The most profound act of peace was demonstrated through the life and testimony of Jesus Christ. He became the Great Intercessor, bearing our sin, chaos, and disorder to secure an eternal reality of “*peace with God* (**Romans 5:1**)” on our behalf. This title—“*the Great Intercessor*”—is not merely because Jesus prays for us continually, but because His very nature embodies intercession. He stood in our place, represented us before the Father, and reconciled us to God, establishing everlasting peace. We are now Children of God who get to represent the “*family name (identity)*”.

(Romans 8:31-39 NASB) “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? 33 Who will bring charges against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 Just as it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

(Hebrews 7:25-28 NASB) “Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens; 27 who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself. 28 For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, who has been made perfect forever.”

- c. Every time we choose to be a peacemaker, we're operating as children of God in the nature of God himself. When we intervene during times of chaos and disorder, and sow peace, we represent the nature of Christ himself and we extend His intercessory work and “*carry on the family business as His kids*”. In the prayer room when we intercede and come into agreement with God, we're functioning in an expression of being a peacemaker. Through prayers of intercession we acknowledge the disorder and injustice in a given situation or people group and we, in faith agree with God and others in the room to see order, justice, and peace come to that situation.