Whatever is Pure
Philippians 4:8-9, Matthew 23:25-26, Mark 7:14-23, 1 John 3:2b-3, Proverbs 4:23
Feb 02, 2020

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What comes to mind when you think of purity, and why?
2. Do you think that being seen as a "purist" is a positive or negative virtue? Think of different examples to illustrate your answer.
3. In your experience, how has the Church approached the topic of purity? Does this advance or impede the communication of the Gospel?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Philippians 4:8-9. As we are reflecting on the different aspects of our character, how is God pure?
2. In Matthew 23, Jesus admonishes the Pharisees who adhered to the law while failing the spirit of it. When it comes to purity, how might we fall into a similar trap? What damage can these failings cause to our church? To our neighbors? To the world at large?
3. According to Mark 7, we tend to focus more attention on what goes into our body rather than what comes out. How can this distract us from tending to the wholeness of our hearts?
4. Consider these two important principles, purity and grace. How do they relate to each other? Are they at odds?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Purity is a noteworthy pursuit, but isn't God the one who does the purifying? So what is our role in this process?
2. Take some time to reflect with the group about the things that regularly enter into your hearts. How does it affect what comes out of you? Is the solution to limit our exposure to only positive and uplifting things? Discuss this together.
3. Pastor Jason described that purity can be understood as wholeness and that becoming pure is a journey of becoming who we really are. What do you think the "real/whole you" is like? Conversely, what is "not you?" How can we all live more into the person God created us to be?
4. Pastor Jason encourages us to fast this week from a practice (and fill it with something that points us to God). What are you considering fasting from (and filling up with instead? If you've been doing it already, how has it affected you?