Popularity Or Purity

Intro: The life of the Christian can be summarized by three ideas.
1. A life of worship
2. A life of service.
3. A life of purity.

We will be concerned in this lesson with the third of these, a life of purity. We need to define pure or purity. It means to be free from any kind of pollution; pure from defilement, not contaminated; innocence and chastity; cleanness. The fact that we are to be pure is emphasized in the scriptures (Mat. 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”; 1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”). Let us notice the need for purity from three aspects.

I. IN DOCTRINE
A. Our doctrine must be correct for our lives to be pure.
B. Thus, pure doctrine is stressed in the Scriptures.
   1. God’s word is pure.
      a. Psa. 19:8 “The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”
      b. Psa. 119:140 “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.”
      c. Pro. 4:2 “For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.”
      d. Pro. 30:5 “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”
      e. Isa. 45:19 “I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.”
   2. We must hold to that pure doctrine.
      a. 2 Tim. 1:13 “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.”
      b. Tit. 2:1, 7 “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:...7In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,”
      c. 1 Pet. 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

C. Some false teaching that will affect our lives.
   1. Do your own thing
   2. Situation ethics
   3. Does not matter what one believes as long as he is sincere.
   4. Existentialism
   5. Hedonism (seek pleasure)
   6. Humanism
   7. Evolution
   8. Marriage, divorce and remarriage
II. IN THOUGHT
A. Our thoughts are to be pure.
   1. Pro. 23:7 “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.”
   2. Mat. 15:19-20 “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”
   3. Pro. 12:5 “The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.”
   4. Rom. 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
   5. Phi. 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”
   6. 1 Cor. 4:6 “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.”
B. Our society (thus, popularity) is to think on that which is evil and base.
   1. Television
   2. Movies
   3. School
    a. Evolution
    b. Sex Education
   4. Modern Music
   5. Pornography

III. IN PRACTICE
A. Our lives are to be pure
   1. 1 Pet. 1:14 “As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:”
   2. 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
   3. 1 Tim. 5:22 “Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.”
   4. Gal. 5:24 “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”
   5. 1 John 2:15-17 “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” This is seen in two areas.
6. Speech
   a. **Exo 20:7** “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.”
   b. **Eph. 4:29** “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
   c. **Col. 3:8** “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”
   d. **Jam. 3:10** “Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.”
   e. **Mat. 12:36-37** “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

7. Actions
   a. Our actions must be guided by God’s word.
   b. So many things today are running contrary to purity and that word.
   (1) Clothing
      (a) **1 Tim. 2:9** “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;”
      (b) **1 Pet. 3:3-4** “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; ‘But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”
   (2) Dancing
      (a) **Gal. 5:19-21** “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
         i) lasciviousness
         ii) Revellings
         iii) And such like
      (b) **1 Pet. 4:3-4** “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: ‘Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:’”
   (3) Drinking
      (a) **Eph. 5:18** “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
      (b) **1 The. 5:22** “Abstain from all appearance of evil.”
1 Cor. 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

1 Cor. 6:12 “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”

1 Cor. 6:18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

Heb. 13:4 “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

Gambling (violates principles)
(a) discourages work
(b) encourages slothfulness
(c) encourages greed and covetousness
(d) destroys homes
(e) associates with evil

Materialism/Covetousness; Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

Conclusion: 2 Cor. 7:1 “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” Let us as Christians purify our lives so that we can be a light to those in darkness (Mat. 5:14-16 “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”), influencing them and not allowing them to influence us.