

PRACTICING PURITY

I John 3:1-3

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Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports. . . And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.

- George Washington (Farewell Address, 1796)

The Call to Purity (I John 3:1-3)

1. We are LOVED (I John 3:1a)
2. We are CHOSEN (I John 3:1b, I Peter 2:9)
3. We are in IN PROCESS (I John 3:2, Philippians 1:6)
4. We are CALLED TO PURITY (I John 3:3)

Why should we pursue purity?

1. It is God's will and desire for us (I Thessalonians 4:1-5)
2. God has commanded us to pursue purity (Heb. 12:12-14)
3. It is a pursuit that provides confidence (I John 2:28)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 John 3:2 and Philippians 1:6. What does it mean to be "in process" and what does God promise us as we pursue purity in our lives? Discuss.
2. Read I John 3:3 and 2:28. In I John 3:3 we read about the call to purity. What does I John 2:28 tell us about the result of the pursuit of purity? Discuss.
3. Who are you accountable to in this area of your life? Discuss.
4. Pray for your accountability partner or pray for God to provide someone to play this role in your life.

I John 3:1-3: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

I Peter 2:9: But you are a **chosen** race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession (peculiar), that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Philippians 1:6: And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you **will bring it to completion** at the day of Jesus Christ

I Thessalonians 4:1-5: Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. ³ **For this is the will of God, your sanctification:** that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in **holiness** and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; . . .

Hebrews 12:12-14: Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the **holiness** without which no one will see the Lord.

I John 2:28: And now, little children, **abide in him**, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.