

THE FERVENT AND PURE CHRISTIAN

Introduction

- 1) **1 Peter 1:22** – “*Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart*”
- 2) Two things every Christian needs is **fervency** and **purity**
- 3) Both qualities are characteristic of the person who has been **born again** in obedience to the word of God and **continues** to grow in that truth (1:22 – 2:2)

I) FERVENCY

- A) **1 Peter 1:22; 4:8** – love for one another should be **fervent**
 - 1) Gk. *ektenos* – strained, stretched, fervent, intense, earnest
 - 2) Our love for one another should be the kind that will strain and stretch (exert) itself to seek the good of one other in the Lord; an active and energetic love that is at full strength
- B) **Romans 12:11** – *fervent* in spirit (as opposed to “lagging in diligence”)
 - 1) Gk. *zeo* – to be hot, to boil (“on fire” burning with anger, love, zeal, etc.)
 - 2) Not *lagging* (idle, lazy – see Matt. 25:26) in *diligence* (accomplishing, striving)
 - a) “An idle man and a Christian are names which do not harmonize” (Albert Barnes)
 - b) Satan seeks to discourage so he can turn our flame off and cool down our spirit
 - 3) Our spirit needs to be passionate in doing what is right and good – serving the Lord with intensity and desire (not “ho-hum” or “if I feel like it” – Titus 2:14)
 - a) Apollos was “fervent in spirit” and he spoke the things of the Lord (Acts 18:25), but did not know the full truth about baptism
 - i) Fervency without accurate knowledge is dangerous (Rom. 10:2-3); our fervency must go hand-in-hand with our knowledge of truth
- C) **Earnestness** – active, hastening, diligent
 - 1) Give the more earnest heed to the word of God (Heb. 2:1-4); contend earnestly for the faith (Jude 3); hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Pet. 3:12)

II) PURITY

- A) Our souls have been “purified” in obeying the truth (1 Pet. 1:22)
 - 1) Redeemed with pure blood of Christ (vv. 18-19) and grow by the pure word (2:2)
 - 2) **Purify** = cleanse from defilement, make pure (not contaminated)
 - 3) Accomplished in the obedience to the salvation provided and commanded by Christ
 - a) Faith, repentance, baptism (Rev. 1:5; Acts 16:22; Heb. 10:22)
- B) The Christian must **maintain** and **increase** purity in body and mind (2 Cor. 7:1)
 - 1) Our bodies are not to be used for worldly filth (1 Cor. 6:15; 1 Thess. 4:3-4)
 - 2) Our hearts should not be given to doubleminded contamination (Jas. 4:7-10)
 - a) A pure heart is one with a single-minded devotion to God and His will – not divided between God and this world, truth and error, Christ and family, etc.
- C) A purified people is a beautiful sight for God to behold (Titus 2:14)!

Conclusion

Each Christian needs to be fervent in spirit and pure in heart. The pure in heart will see God (Matt. 5:8; 1 John 3:2-3). The pure in heart see God’s influence in their lives every day. Is it your hope to see the Lord someday?