

TOOLS FOR PARENTS



The Problem with Purity, Part 2

QUESTIONS FOR CUBS

NOTE TO PARENTS/TEACHERS:

The goal of this questions-and-answers section is to initiate interaction between you and your kids. Please do not just read the questions and answers to your kids. These answers are given for you at an adult level to think about and to process. Once that is accomplished, you can then translate them into appropriate answers for your kids.

LESSON

We should be pure in heart

KEY VERSE

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matt. 5:8)

EAR CHECK (STORY COMPREHENSION)

- Q: What happened when the people from the Big White Church tried to open the gate for Paw Paw Chuck to deliver the desk?
A: The gate fell down
- Q: When the "churchies" began blocking the entrance, what did the villagers see on the inside walls?
A: Paintings of people entering the church gates
- Q: Who saves Saint Merrion from the pack of wolves?
A: Barnabas
- Q: What is the name of the church that Barnabas is a member of?
A: The Lighthouse

HEART CHECK (SPIRITUAL APPLICATION)

Q: Why do some churches make you feel like you're not good enough to be there?

A: *This is a tough issue. First, people tend to get too attached to material things—even church buildings. A church can get off-track when they think that only people who talk like them and look like them and think like them are good enough to be in their church building. That's how the Pharisees acted—Jesus confronted them about their hypocrisy again and again. They were afraid that the sinners would somehow poison their purity. They were thinking only of themselves. They wanted their church to be clean and holy, so they made it impossible for the people who needed help the most to get any help.*

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On the other hand, the very purpose of a group of people gathering for worship should be a desire to change—from proud to humble, from selfish to giving, from angry to forgiving. A good church should happily take in anyone who is willing to come, and they all should understand that to follow Christ is a commitment to grow and change to be more like Him.

“I” CHECK (PERSONAL APPLICATION)

1. The key verse says “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8). Explain, in your own words, what it means to be pure in heart?
2. Saint Merrion was very knowledgeable about the Bible, but she didn’t understand the importance of building relationships. Why do you think it is important to build relationships with people before sharing Christ with them?
3. The group from The Lighthouse lived in a shack and did many different kinds of manual labour jobs. In Saint Merrion’s eyes, they weren’t pure like those from the Big White Church. But their hearts were pure. Think about people you meet. Are they sometimes different from you? Describe some ways you can show Christ’s love to them.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Symbols are tricky things. They can speak volumes, inspire us to lofty thoughts, and if their intended lessons are learned well, they can save us from much pain and anguish. On the other hand, it is incredibly tempting to make symbols much more important than they should ever be. We do that with our churches all the time. The church building is a place dedicated to the worship and service of God. What a great symbol that is! However, it is common for us as Christians to become so involved with our buildings and traditions that we exclude people who don't comply. We can easily give as much devotion to our symbols as we do to our God. And when we do, we are in serious trouble.

In writing this episode, I felt challenged about the way I think about the unbelieving world around me. They don't much care about our symbols—if anything, they are irritated by them. They typically don't like old-fashioned hymns, they often don't want to wear suits and ties, and they're uncomfortable with "churchy" language. I think it's safe to say that some of the most spiritual moments, the most important turning points in my life as a Christian, took place somewhere other than the actual church sanctuary. Many of them were at church camps, some were in the car on a long trip as I talked with friends and family, and others took place while talking with friends and sharing a large but very cheap pizza. Consequently my focus for evangelism isn't based on trying to get unbelievers to church. Rather, I want to start by helping them understand Christ and their need for Him. If my church helps with that process, that's terrific. But if they eventually want to go to a church that does music differently or that dresses more casually, who cares?

If you have been offended by a church or by Christians who care more about their traditions than your soul, I want to apologize on behalf of them. Don't give up. Keep looking for a church, a group of people who are pursuing Christ and want to help you do the same. That's what all churches should be anyway.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. Carl', written in a cursive style.

David B. Carl
Creative Director
Paws & Tales

