

THE TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF PURITY

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I greet each one here in the very precious name of Jesus. I believe before we look at this message I am going to ask you to stand, we will sing one verse of the song “Purer in Heart O God Help Me To Be.” (N.B. Listen to full version of hymn “Purer in Heart” at Accapella Hymns www.anabaptismennonites.org)

Purer in heart O God, Help me to be,
May I devote my life wholly to Thee,
Watch Thou my wayward feet,
Guide me with counsel sweet,
Purer in heart, Oh help me to be.

The Teaching and Practice of Purity.

I believe this is a needful subject for us to consider together because we are living in the kind of day that I believe if the psalmist was here he would say: “Help Lord, For the godly man ceases” [Psalm12:1] We are living in a wicked society. We are living in a society that is becoming more and more corrupt, polluted within and this society presents to us more and more temptations to impurity and so I believe it is important that we consider this subject.

When we think about Purity, when we think of the condition of society about us, I don't believe it is necessary for us this afternoon to enlarge upon and enumerate the wickedness of the society in which we live. In fact the scripture tells us that it is a shame even to speak of those things that are done of them [Ephesians 5:12] and I am not intending to say of a lot of the things that the world is doing, rather I would like to do what Peter said when he said: 2 Peter 3:1 “*This second epistle beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance.*”

It is my purpose this afternoon to call some of the principles of scripture that relate to this chapter, to call them to remembrance so that we will be fortified from the scripture, the foundation of Purity

and Truth, that we will be fortified from the scriptures in order to live the pure life.

What is Purity? Many definitions could be given, I like the one that James gives in his letter; [James 1:27](#) where he says “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself (what?) unspotted from the world.”

Purity is that which is untainted, spotted, unadulterated, not affected by sin and wickedness and that which is wrong and evil. Now I want to make it plain in the outstart that I believe that everyone of us at one time was spotted with the world. In fact in [Ephesians 2:3](#) it talks about the course of the world and it says; among whom we also had our conversation in times past, and it talks about the spirit of disobedience that is in the world, we all had a part of that, we were all tainted, we were all spotted, but I'm thankful that God has made the provision that we can all be pure, praise the Lord for that.

I believe that this subject is necessary because we still are in the flesh, we are not walking after the flesh, we are walking after the spirit [[Romans 8:1](#)] and I believe that the old nature is still able to make an appeal to us, and it is still possible for us to fall into sin and to become spotted with the world and so we need to consider this so that we can appropriate the provision that God has made to do with anything that may come into our lives that isn't pure and to again find cleansing and forgiveness.

In the introduction I would like to quickly mention a few of the world's ideas of Purity. Now I believe that probably Purity is something that the world is saying less and less about, however there is still a certain amount of moral tone or moral understanding about the people that we live around and among that establishes within their mind a certain idea about right and wrong. I'd like to mention a few of the world's ideas of Purity. Now we can expect that the world's idea of Purity doesn't harmonise with the Bible teaching of Purity but the thing that is striking to me or concerns me when we consider the

world's idea of Purity is to notice that these ideas are sometimes found among people that are called Christians.

1] The first one I would like to mention is; Some people say that if both parties in a particular matter or issue, if both parties are agreed to it then it is okay. Does that make it all right? Joseph was mentioned here earlier today. If this is true, if Purity is when both parties agree then it's all right, well, that is not true, it didn't work out that way for Joseph and Joseph knew that even if they would have both agreed it still would not have been right because he said; "How could I do this great wickedness and sin against God? [[Genesis 39:9](#)] And so it is not a matter of whether people consent together to do something but it is a matter of what the scripture says. Such reasoning would not have excused Joseph. Adultery, fornication, unnatural affections, if two parties consent does that make it right? No, no, it will not because it is contrary to scripture, it is contrary to the word of truth.

2] The second idea that some people have is this idea that following the letter of the law, being a good moral man, this is Purity. Is this Purity? Is this Purity? Will it make a man pure to follow the moral law to be a good moral man? No, this does not make a man pure.

For example I met a man not too long ago in my course of work and we got to talking about the Christian life, I asked him if he goes to church and oh he quickly informed me where he goes to church and what his affiliation was.

I said: "Well then I suppose you know what the new birth is?"

He said: "No I don't think I know what that means."

Here was a man who had gone to church for a number of years, most of his life, he was a Methodist and I'm not saying this in any reproachful way against the Methodists.

I said to him: "From what I understand about the Methodists they were at one time a revival group, they preached in salvation to the blood of Christ, they preached the new birth." I said: "Don't you remember when you were a boy going to revival meetings?"

He told me; "Well" he said: "I went to some when I was 12 or 15 years old but frankly I never had much time for it." He said: "I was

raised in a good home, I was taught to live right, I was taught to be a good neighbour, I was taught to be honest.” He said: “That is the way I have always lived.”

So I asked him, I said: “Can you see any reason why Christ would have needed to die for you?”

He thought about that the minute he said: “No I can't see why he would have needed to die for me” He said: “I have always tried to do what is right.”

I said: “Well can you see why He would have needed to die for those sinners out here and people that steal and commit adultery and all kinds of things?”

“Yes” he said: “I can understand why Christ would need to die for them.”

You see here was a man that thought that observing the moral law, living and being a good man as far as he knew, he thought that that was acceptable to God. But he was mistaken. The songwriter says: “The moral man came to the judgment but his self righteous rags would not do.” (*N.B. This song available at Accapella Hymns tab at www.anabaptistmennonites.org as ‘I Dreamed That The Great Judgement Morning.’*)

Isaiah says [Isaiah 64:6](#)

“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” This man could not see why Christ would have needed to die for him, all the while he was smoking a cigarette and I am sure that while he may have been trying to be an honest and a good man, I am sure that his lack of understanding of the new birth and the power of the spirit in the life of an individual, since those things were missing, I cannot help but believe that here was a man that inside was filthy, even though he may have been a nice and a good man on the outside. This is not Purity. It takes something different from that.

In Proverbs 20 verse nine we have a verse that applies to this it says [Proverbs 20:9](#) “*Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*” I believe that this verse means just what we were talking about, who is it, what man is there that can say I have

lived a good pure life, I have made myself pure, who can say this? No one, because we cannot do that.

Another scripture in Proverbs chapter 30 verse 12 says [Proverbs 30:12](#) *“There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.”* I am inclined to feel that this man came in this category. I told him to go and ask his minister to preach the new birth once and a few months later I talked to him and I asked him if he asked his minister this and he said: “No, I didn't I'll have to do it.” I believe that he still believes that his good life is good enough, I am convinced that it is not.

It is not for nought that the Bible says in [Hebrews 4:12](#) *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* The word of God can see beyond, it can see deeper than what appears on the outside. God told Samuel: *“Man looketh on the outward appearance but the Lord looketh on the heart.”* [[1Samuel 16:7](#)] I believe that the outside is important but the inside needs to be right in order for the outside to be right.

3] Thirdly some people believe that Purity is a relative term. They believe that Purity is determined by the acceptance or the toleration levels of society. In other words if society will tolerate people to walk around half nude then it must be all right, it must be acceptable if society will tolerate this. Well the same people that believe that would not be ready to carry that to where it gets them to but they are deceived in believing for today that Purity is a relative term. This kind of a standard degenerates with society and the nudity of society is just another example of this. We don't need to go back too many years until we can easily remember how it was a disgraceful and a shameful thing for men to work or to be in public without shirts on and today they appear with a whole lot less on and people don't think anything about it because society tolerates it. I have talked to Menonite people that felt that a dress for a woman that only came half-way to the knee was all right, they had conditioned themselves along with society to accept that and they were no longer able to discern

because they were moving away from the truth and from the absolute standard.

Now we must remember that in connection to this idea where people say that Purity is a relative term, we must remember that the Bible says in [2 Timothy 3:13](#) *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”* And along with them those that have the idea that Purity is a relative thing their standard of Purity is going to wax lower and lower, evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. What does the next first say?

[2 Timothy 3:14-15](#): *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*

Beloved here is the absolute standard for Purity. And it doesn't matter what the world says or what the church says, the churches, or what they will tolerate, let's continue in the things that we have been taught and that we have been assured of, the teaching from the holy scriptures. The bible alone establishes the eternal acceptable standard of Purity.

The Demand for Purity.

God told His people on different occasions: “Be ye holy for I am holy.” The Bible doesn't say it would be nice if you would be holy it would be good to try to be holy but it says: Be ye holy. And every place in the scripture where we are given a commandment we also know that God makes a provision for us to do what we are commanded to do and we will look at that a bit later, but God has every right to demand Holiness of His people and Purity of His people. He has every right to do that because He is holy.

In Isaiah 6 we read how Isaiah saw a vision of the Lord in the year that King Uzziah died, he says how he also saw the Lord, high and lifted up and His train filled the whole Temple and it talks about the cherubims which cried: *“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”* [[Isaiah 6:1-3](#)] We believe in the abso-

lute Holiness and purity of Almighty God, the scriptures present God to us in this manner and He has every right to require this of us.

In the [1 Timothy 5:22](#) we are commanded to keep ourselves, to keep thyself pure. [James 1:27](#) says pure religion and explains this. In Psalm 24 verses three to five, here are some verses you ought to read often, it is an incentive to Purity but it also points out that demand for Purity

[Psalm 24:3-5](#) *“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. ⁵He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”*

I told you that where God gives us a commandment He gives us a provision. It says here this man shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

In [Hebrews 12:14](#) we are told to follow peace with all men and Holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. Purity is a requirement of God's people, it is demanded.

In the Old Testament God gave the 10 commandments, He gave the law. [[Exodus 20](#)] He gave the moral law for His people to live by and those laws helped men, at least on the outside, to have a life that was free from the acts of sin. The New Testament and in Jesus' teaching of the sermon on the Mount [[Matthew Chapters 5 to 7](#)] along with the Old Testament completes the whole picture and deals also with the inner man. Jesus said you have heard that it has been said, dealing with the outer man, but I say unto you, and then Jesus got right to the inside where He sees the heart of men. And in these instructions and commandments that are given we find the call for Purity.

I met a man recently, also in the course of my work, who had a very, he had an awful attitude toward the word of God, toward the Truth of God, toward God Himself, but he did admit to me that if people today would live by the 10 commandments the world would be a lot better place to live in. And I think that that is certainly right, God gave those laws to make life, a life that was more desirable to live for His people, not to make it harder for them but to make it eas-

ier for them. Proper restrictions and proper boundaries do that for us, they make life more enjoyable because we avoid the corruptions of sin, this man admitted that but he did not know, he was not willing to call upon God for the power to do that, to live according to God's standards of Purity.

The Dynamics of Purity *or* The Power to Live the Pure Life.

We are thinking of the teachings and practice of Purity. The practice of Purity is not possible without another power outside of ourselves, we must have another power outside of ourselves in order to practice Purity. Again referring back to Proverbs: [\[Proverbs 20:9\]](#) who can say, who can say I have made my way clean, pure. We need another power from outside of ourselves in order to practice Purity, this is provided for us. I would like you to turn back to first Peter, the first chapter. It was very interesting to me to notice in this study how perfect and pure and holy God's working is with men and His dealings with men and the plan that He provides for us, how perfect and pure it is. Now notice in first Peter 1:18 it says [\[1 Peter 1:18-19\]](#) "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" Here God provided a perfect plan that works for us to live the pure life, we need to be redeemed. Now I mentioned earlier that we have all been spotted with sin, we have all been tainted with it, the marks of sin are on us all, but in the perfect provision that God has made we find the power, we find that which is needed to cleanse us from the sins of the past, to cleanse us, to clean the slate, to justify us, just as if I had not sinned, we find that power within the blood of Christ, and this is precious blood without blemish and without spot. [Psalm 12:6](#) tells us that the commandment of the Lord is pure and other scriptures tell us that we are sanctified and cleansed by the washing of water by the word, by this pure word of God. [\[Ephesians5:26\]](#) So the provision that God is made is a pure and perfect provision which is adequate, which is sufficient to enable us to be cleansed of our sins and to live above sin today. To live pure lives for our Saviour.

[Proverbs 30 verse 5](#): *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”* We have the word of God, the pure word of God which we must study, which we must give attendance to reading and to exhortation and to doctrine that we might be able to live, to practice Purity in our everyday walk of life. We find the way outlined for us in the pure word of God.

Further [James 3:17](#) tells us that there is wisdom available for us, we are living in the world whose temptations and allurements are very deceptive and we need wisdom from above in order to discern what is right and what is wrong, and James says that wisdom that is from above its first pure, it is first pure. Wisdom from above never misleads us, wisdom from above is never in error, when we are following the direction from the spirit of God and his voice in our life we are not led into paths that lead into impurity. And so we need to ask God for wisdom from above; [James 1:5](#): *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* We need wisdom, we are living in a day of deception and many temptations, it takes wisdom from above to live the pure life and God has provided it for us. And further we believe that in all this it is evident to us that scripture teaches that in order to have the power for a life of Purity we must have a renewed mind, we must have a renewed mind. Be ye be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect, and I'm going to and pure, will of God.[\[Romans 12:2\]](#)We need a transformed mind.

Now coming back again to the one idea of the world that I mentioned, the idea of living in the letter of the law and that this is Purity. One illustration from scriptures that proves that this is not Purity is the account where some of the Pharisees, some of the religious leaders, religious men of that day brought a woman to Christ and said that this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act, and what do You say about this matter? You know the account, [\[John 8\]](#) how Jesus wrote something on the ground, I'm not sure what He wrote there, but He said: “He that is without sin among you let him first cast a stone.” And it says that they went out from the oldest to the

youngest, being condemned, convicted by their own conscience. Here were men who were claiming to be living by the letter of the law, they were claiming to be and presenting themselves as good moral men, but they were in pure. Now I believe that the way they brought this woman and what was said about her reveals that according to Jesus' standard of Purity that they were guilty of the same sin that she was guilty of, even though they were presenting themselves to be good moral men. Their mind was not renewed. The cup was clean on the outside but it was filthy on the inside. [Luke 11:39] We must have a renewed mind.

Now we have considered the *Demand for Purity* and the *Dynamic for Purity*, let's look at some of the demonstrations of Purity. The practice of Purity. We could spend a lot of time on this, I am simply going to touch a few areas to stir up our pure minds by way of remembrance, I would like to bring some things to our attention to help us face the temptations and the wickedness that is about us so that we can rise above this.

Demonstrating Purity.

I am thankful that we can experience what Jesus said in [Matthew 5:28](#), He said blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. There is a blessing for those who are pure in heart, those who are practising Purity. Let's first of all consider Purity, demonstrating Purity in the thought life. [Philippians 4:8](#) was already referred to today: "*Finally my brethren whatsoever things are pure, lovely, just, honest, of good report think on these things.*" I am convinced that if we would keep our minds free from the filth and the impurities of the world we are going to have to keep them filled with something better and there is plenty of good and pure and holy things to think about, and meetings like this help us to do that, to stir up their minds, they cause us to consider together the goodness of the Lord and what He has been doing for us, and His work which is at hand and there is much to be done. These things we need to think about. [Proverbs 23:7](#) says: "*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:*" It is imperative that our thought life is pure. I believe it is possible for Satan to throw or inject thoughts into our minds that we don't want to be there but I believe

that the power of Christ through the Holy Spirit and the renewed mind enables us to remove those thoughts from our mind rather than dwelling on them.

I believe that this is what Job had in mind when he said: [Job 31:1](#): *“I have made a covenant with my eyes why then should I think up on a maid?”* Job was expressing this principle I believe, this power that when we have the renewed mind, when we have a relationship with God that pervades our being, when we have a desire to think on that which is good and to exclude from our thinking that which is evil, in such a case we do not need to think and dwell upon things that are evil. God gives us the power to remove those things from our mind if they should come in and I believe that they do come in, Satan is ever bombarding the thought life of the Christian because as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. [[Proverbs 23:7](#)] Our thought life is very important.

In [Titus 1:15](#) is a scripture that is very much abused in this day of apostasy, it states *“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.”* Now in my past I have a history of some years spent in the public school and, that along with some other experiences in life, I have found out what this verse means. I have been with individuals that you hardly knew what to say in their presence because no matter what you said they could take a wrong meaning out of it. It says here that unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure, but even their mind and their conscience is defiled. Now the first part of the verse is what I have reference too though when I said that this is a verse that is much abused in our day of religious apostasy.

Unto the pure all things are pure. I have had people say to me when I have challenged them about immodesty, short dresses I mention that because it comes to my mind, they comeback and say: “To the pure all things are pure”. That is not what this verse is saying. I believe this verse is saying to us: Unto the pure all things that are pure are pure. Something that is not pure cannot be pure, but that is what they are saying, they take a picture of immodesty and say ‘Unto the pure all things are pure’. How can it be pure when it is impure

and when it is suggestive and when it arouses the lusts of ungodly men? It cannot be pure. I believe that this verse means that unto the pure all things that are pure are pure. And we had better make sure that we are not picking something that is pure and making it impure, that is what the world does. Even when we think we are watching our speech and saying things in a discreet manner there are ungodly individuals that make it impure anyway, but that should not be our condition, that will not be the condition of the person with the renewed mind.

How is it in your thought life? Would we be willing for God to pick out any day of our life at random and put all our thoughts on a screen for everybody to read? Would we be willing? Now we are talking about moral Purity, this involves honesty, it involves feelings toward other individuals and it involves a whole host of things. It involves attitudes which may be right or wrong, if they are wrong they are impure, if they are right they are pure. Would we be willing to do that? Whether we are or not we might as well admit that there is coming a day that those that have not made their calling an election sure, those that have not had their sins, including sins of the thought life, put under the blood and cleansed, coming a day I believe when those things will be revealed. There is nothing hidden that shall not be revealed. [\[Luke 8:17\]](#) God knows all about these things and so if we know that we are failing in this area let's call upon God to give us the power to be victorious in the area of purity of thought.

Demonstrating purity in attitudes.

Let's look in [1 Peter 1 verse 22](#): *“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:”* I believe that a pure heart, purity in attitudes is basic for the love of the brethren, it is basic for unity among the brethren, it is basic for harmonious working relationships, purity in attitudes; Seeing ye have purified your hearts unto unfeigned love of the brethren, not put on but real and pure. See that you love one another with a pure heart fervently.

First Timothy 1:5 also relates to this thought I believe where it says [1Timothy 1:5] *“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart,...”* and this is the only way, it is the only place you can get charity out of, out of a pure heart. You can't get charity out of any other heart, real charity, biblical charity come to have a pure heart. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*” not put on.

Keep thine heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. I believe this scripture applies to our attitudes. [Proverbs 4:23]

Demonstrating purity in speech.

Ephesians 4 verse 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.”* Let no corrupt communication proceed of your mouth. Now some people have the idea that if we can keep from saying it we are all right, that is not what this verse says. This verse when you take it with other verses says deal with your heart and then you won't have corrupt communications coming out of the mouth, deal with the heart and then good things will come out. Out of the heart precedes evil thoughts and blasphemings and on and on. [Mark 7:21] But it is out of the heart that proceed good things, when the heart has been dealt with it is cleansed and is renewed.

Titus, the second chapter verses seven and eight says [Titus 2:7-8] *“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, ⁸Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”* I say that that is a testimony that I would want to have.

The Bible does tell us that men might have something to say about us wrongfully and that we will have to endure, but let us appropriate the power of God in our lives that our speech may be such that they cannot condemn us wrongfully, that they cannot condemn us for something that we actually have done but that their accounts do not stand before God.

What about off colour stories? What about stories that may have two meanings? Certainly we dare let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth. I think in connection with this we need to be appropriating the power of God in our life that we might respond properly when we get around individuals that are doing these things. We need the power of God to manifest a life of sobriety and that our attitude is one of disgust and that we are totally against that kind of thing. I recall some time ago there was a storm went through our area and a man's barn and some buildings were damaged and there was a whole lot of people got together to help the man out, there was a lot of Mennonites and plain people there, we worked till dinner time and then every one was gathered together for dinner and this man who seemed to have very few religious scruples, he had the audacity to tell a dirty story right there before that whole group. But that wasn't the worst part, the worst part was that there were people there who laughed that shouldn't have. That is what really upset me, there were people there who smiled and grinned that shouldn't have. I am not saying anybody should have, but there were some people there that definitely shouldn't have. Then the man called on a minister in the group to lead in prayer, I'm glad that it wasn't me that he called on. Purity in speech.

Another word of admonition. I believe that we need to be careful, we need to use discretion in how much and to what length we will go to talk about motherhood and procreation among ourselves and in mixed settings. The world has become very permissive in this area but that doesn't make it right and that doesn't make it pure. Let's be careful in this area. Also we hear people talking about some of their physical ailments in such a way that it is not in good taste and not in harmony with Bible standards of pure speech, just a word of encouragement here for us.

Furthermore honesty would enter into the matter of purity in speech. Now some people say that honesty is the best policy, I would like to say that honesty is not only the best policy it is the word of God, it is a commandment of God, and if we find that we are endeavouring to be honest because its a good business policy then we

are still not honest, we are still not honest. We need to be honest in our speech and in our dealings because that is the Bible standard of purity.

Purity In Companionship.

1 Corinthians 15:33 says; *“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”*

Young people be very careful in your quest for companionship, in choosing your friends be very careful, evil communications corrupt good manners. Paul told Timothy, a young man, he said keep thyself pure. [1Timothy 5:22] There is a great need for teaching I believe on purity in courtship and purity of life for young people. I believe that one of the greatest incentives for purity in young people, this applies to either side of the house, one of the greatest incentives is to see on the other side of the house a godly example of purity. I was in Wilmington, Delaware in service in the hospital, and hospitals are corrupt places to work and there are many temptations and I was thankful many times to be able to come home to the unit life every evening and find there before me an example of godly Purity and godly womanhood. It helped me to keep in my mind to what was right and live above sin, and I would say that that goes for both ways, for brethren or sisters. One of the best incentives for pure living is to have an example of godliness before you all the time. And parents we also need to be providing this also for our children. In conduct I believe it is necessary, and I believe it is important that we exercise propriety in our contact between the sexes, men with women and women with men, there needs to be propriety and a measure of restraint exercised and the spirit of God will lead us in this.

Now in appearance also one could spend much time talking about the necessity of purity in appearance. One thing I would like to say here in 1Timothy 2:9 where it says modest apparel. I am of the understanding that that scripture, if one goes to the Greek, refers to a two-piece dress for women and I believe on that basis, at least for a starter, on that basis we have a good solid foundation for the cape dress. That word modest there refers to a two-piece type which provides for a more modest presentation, more modest appearance and

we need this. And I would say to sisters and to brethren one of the needs in our day is to stay away from the tight clothing and this is just as important for the men as it is for the women. The world is designing its patterns more and more to show the body and God's standard of purity calls for the body to be veiled and to be dressed modestly. This is an essential I believe to biblical Purity.

In closing let us keep in mind always that there shall nothing enter heaven that defileth. Nothing, nothing. Nothing will enter heaven that defileth or that is impure. [Revelation 21:27](#): *“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”*

I am thankful that God has made a provision that we can be cleansed and we can have progressive sanctification in our lives and I have the confidence that Paul had when he wrote to the Philippians and he said: [Philippians 1:6](#): *“Being confident of this one thing that he that has begun a good working you will perform at until the day of Jesus Christ.”*

We cannot perform purity in ourselves but God who has begun this could work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.