

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, February 11, 2018
Pursuing Personal Purity
1: Having These Promises

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 (14) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (15) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? (16) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE." (17) Therefore "COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM AND BE SEPARATE, SAYS THE LORD. DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN, AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU." (18) "I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY." 2 Corinthians 7:1 NKJV Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

For 2018, the Lord told us to emphasize three things: Personal purity, spiritual maturity, supernatural power. These three go together. The outcome of personal holiness and corporate maturity, is a kind of supernatural power not seen since the early church.

As we begin our quest for personal purity, we want to look for how we get there without becoming legalists. We know that is not the intent of the New Covenant, yet the New Covenant emphasizes purity in no uncertain terms.

1) The Path to Purity:

- a) Our keynote Scripture: 2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these **promises**, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the **flesh and spirit**, perfecting holiness in the **fear of God**.
 - i) The motivation is in the promises
 - ii) The cleansing is from "filthiness" of the flesh **and** the spirit
 - iii) The purpose is to "perfect holiness"
 - iv) The mechanism is "the fear of God."
- b) Over the next few weeks we will look at the awfulness of sin, the process of purification, and the reality of living in the Presence.

2) What is purity?

- a) Cleanse or purify = *katharízō*; from *katharós* (G2513), pure. To cleanse, free from filth. In the OT, there were four main types of

uncleanness: sexual contacts, food, the dead, and leprosy (Lev. 13-14 Cleansing and purifying is also expressed by other Gr. words which are cognates of the verb *hagnízō*. This is a form of the word *hagios*, or holy: absolutely separate from all evil, consecrated to and by God, and thus summoned to be separate in godlikeness from all the defilements of heathenism

- b) **Holiness is separateness**. It expresses the essence of the divine nature. God is the definition of holiness, and He is calling us to reflect Him: 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - c) 2 Timothy 2:21 a good summation of the idea of holiness
- 3) Why do all this? Because we have these promises.
- a) 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 "You are the temple of the living God." will be real, not just a doctrine
 - i) He will dwell in us: A personal awareness of His indwelling presence. Romans 8:15-16
 - ii) He will dwell among us: A tangible sense of His glory in our gatherings. Ephesians 2:20
 - iii) He will be our God, and we His people – He will mark us out as His own. 1 Peter 2:9-10 / Deuteronomy 28:10 Then all peoples of the earth **shall see** that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.
 - iv) We will live as children, not slaves. Romans 8:14 / Galatians 4:5-7
 - b) Recall the promises of 2 Peter 1:3-4 GW ... you will share in the divine nature (NET) [4] ...partakers of the divine nature, (EXB) [4] ...share in [partake of; participate in] ·God's nature [the divine nature; which enables us to live forever], ·and the world will not ruin you with its evil desires
 - c) The promises that draw us, compel us to run away from death and into His life. Don't let the world ruin you – run to
 - i) The reality of His presence in us and among us, the
 - ii) Full enjoyment of the privileges of sons of God,
 - iii) The joy that comes, not from striving to please God, but from participating in His nature... Moses asked, "If they ask 'What is His name?' Then what should I tell them?" God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." Well, I am, too!