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VISION BY PERSONAL PURITY

"Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8

Purity is not innocence, it is much more. Purity is the outcome of sustained spiritual sympathy with God. We have to gro w in purity. The life with God may be right and the inner purity remain unsullied, and yet every now and again the bloom on the outside may be sullied. God does not shield us from this possibility, because in this way we realize the necessity of maintaining the vision by personal purity. If the spiritual bloom of our life with God is getting impaired in the tiniest deg ree, we must leave off everything and get it put right. Remember that vision depends on character - the pure in heart se e God.

God makes us pure by His sovereign grace, but we have something to look after, this bodily life by which we come in co ntact with other people and with other points of view, it is these that are apt to sully. Not only must the inner sanctuary b e kept right with God, but the outer courts as well are to be brought into perfect accord with the purity God gives us by Hi s grace. The spiritual understanding is blurred immediately the outer court is sullied. If we are going to retain personal co ntact with the Lord Jesus Christ, it will mean there are some things we must scorn to do or to think, some legitimate thin gs we must scorn to touch.

A practical way of keeping personal purity unsullied in relation to other people is to say to yourself - That man, that wom an, perfect in Christ Jesus! That friend, that relative, perfect in Christ Jesus!