

# Purity

**Read:** James 4:1-12; 1 Timothy 4

## Agents of Change

- Called to go is also a call to be an agent of change;
- To bring Spiritual Transformation to a world that has no Spirit;
- One of most enabling instruments for us is our Purity.
- Is unfortunately also our most vulnerable weakness.
- Because with our Purity we affirm the person of Jesus Christ, but:
- With our lack of purity we dishonor Him.
- It is not a comfortable statement, but one we need to hear
- Purity equals potency and potential. If I lose it, I bench myself
- The opposition is confirmed by my living – Jesus is or isn't

## The reaction to the call to Purity

- Discomfort and often an accusation of legalism;
- Defence of licentiousness and claiming the flying cover of Grace;
- Most often an admission that I am not willing to change;
- Then the accusation lies on me – do I really relate to Christ?

## What is Purity?

- Absence of conscious sin
- Complete alignment with the call of God to be holy as He is holy
- Teflon character to all that grieves the Spirit
- Sound resistance to getting sucked into the ways of the world
- Beating the lure of serving self/self gratification.
- Purity in speaking, seeing, hearing, doing, thinking – carrying all the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

## Purity requires?

- **vision** (restrains me in a focused and committed way)
- **preparedness** (I go into situations prepared)
- **boldness** (I state my position clearly and without compromise; not judgmental but assertive)
- **endurance** (I stay the course, constantly submitting to the Spirit, and refusing to relinquish my ground)
- **courage** (I speak the fruits of the Spirit into all situations; I stand for purity as strongly as I can)
- **humility** (I do not use my purity as a badge of distinction, but a sign of my submission to the ways of my Lord)