A Warrior is Pure

Some say that having a *pure heart* in this day and age is difficult, if not impossible. I tend to *disagree most adamantly*. Jesus said, "with God all things are possible," (Matthew 19:26) and shouldn't He be the final authority on such things? After all, He created us and knows what we are capable of.

It takes a little effort, but it can be done by the grace of God – through Christ Jesus.

Part I – A Pure Heart

Read Matthew 5:8

What does Jesus say about those with a *pure heart*? _____

So how do we achieve this pure heart?

Read Psalm 119:1-16

Who is blessed? _____

_____**Psalm 119:1**

Who chose us to be *blameless*? _____ **Ephesians 1:3-4**

Who is blessed? _____

_____**Psalm 119:2**

Are we rewarded for seeking God? _____ **Hebrews 11:6**

Read Jeremiah 29:10-14 (It's a portion of Jeremiah's letter to the Exiles)

God's people have been taken into captivity at this point, but God makes a promise to them at **v. 12**.

What will be the result of their praying to God? _____

_____

If they seek their Lord, what is the result? _____

_____ **Jeremiah 29:14**

Don't let anybody tell you any different…if we *seek* God, we will *find* Him and we will be *blessed* and *rewarded*.

Read 2nd Timothy 2:22

What are we to flee? _____

What are we to pursue? _____

Those who call *on the Lord out of a pure heart* are those Christians who believe that every word within our holy Scriptures is God-breathed…not only that, but they *pursue their knowledge of God's Word*, and in that they *see God*.

Read 1st John 3:1-6

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How do we *purify ourselves, just as He is pure*? _____

_____ **1st John 3:3**

He who loves a pure heart and whose speech is gracious will have the king for his friend. **Proverbs 22:11** **niv 1984**

*…the king for his friend…***Read Psalm 24**

Who is He, this King of glory? _____ **Psalm 24:10**

Read John 15:14-15

If we obey the Lord Jesus, what does He call us? _____

Who is the Lord Jesus Christ? _____ **Revelation 19:16**

The King of Kings and Lord of Lords calls us His *friend*. That just bows me down every time I think about it.

Jesus calls us *friend,* and instead of spending our days in the midst of our *Dearest Friend* (the Word) we run around like chickens with our heads cut off, claiming we don't have the time! Here's a thought: maybe we ought to use our Facebook time to meet with the King (our friend) about our lack of time.

Part II – A Pure Association

In this world there are many tempting things with which to bless ourselves. Symbols (status and otherwise) and associations (whether by club, clique, organization, etc.) identify the bearer with their personal beliefs, interests, loyalties, etc. It's crucial then that we keep ourselves pure of anything we don't want associated with Christ. We are a new creation in Him, therefore we should look like/act like Him. (See Ephesians 4-5:21)

"Find out what pleases the Lord." **Ephesians 5:10** and *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is–His good, pleasing and perfect will."* **Romans 12:2**

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?[4] The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. **Psalm 24:3-4** **niv 2011**

Find out what those idols and false gods in your life are – and don't be offended or alarmed at that statement. We've all got 'em! – just get rid of them, renounce your practice with them, and purify yourself so that you may ascend the mountain of the Lord and stand in His holy place.



Here is a harmless example of *association*…anybody remember this guy? Magnum wears a special ring to denote his special association. Read on:

The gold and black "Team Ring" that Magnum, T.C. and Rick wear is a Vietnam War memento that symbolizes the tight bond of wartime camaraderie that they all shared

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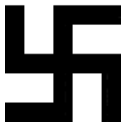
together. The ring is not an official military decoration or emblem, and is not used in any capacity in the U.S. Navy SEALs or U.S. Marine Corps.

The ring was worn by all members of Magnum's "Vietnam Team", a multi-service joint task force comprised of Magnum, T.C., , Rick, Dan Cook, and Phillipe "La Bulle" Trusseau and Pepe (two French Paratroopers). Additionally, Magnum's wife Michelle (who was in Vietnam during the war) has a Cross of Lorraine pendant which she wears on a necklace. She was involved in unspecified clandestine espionage operations for the anti-Communist forces.

Narrative courtesy of Magnum-Mania.com © 2014, J.J. Walters

Magnum wears this symbol to denote *his association with his team*. Whenever I see that symbol, I think of Magnum…and it leads me to recall that he was in Vietnam…and my thoughts flow from there.

This is an example of a symbol that denotes a dangerous association:



The genesis of the swastika symbol is often treated in conjunction with cross symbols in general, such as the sun cross of pagan Bronze Age religion…nothing certain is known about the symbol's origin. There are nevertheless a number of speculative hypotheses. One hypothesis is that the cross symbols and the swastika share a common origin in simply symbolizing the sun. Another hypothesis is that the 4 arms of the cross represent 4 aspects of nature - the sun, wind, water, soil. Some have said the 4 arms of cross are four seasons, where the division for 90-degree sections correspond to the solstices and equinoxes … The Star of David is thought to originate as a symbol of that calendar system … As such, the Christian cross, Jewish hexagram star and the Muslim crescent moon are seen to have their origins in different views regarding which calendar system is preferred for marking holy days. Groups in higher latitudes experience the seasons more strongly, offering more advantage to the calendar represented by the swastika/cross.

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Wow, I gotta admit, I didn't know all that until I looked up. If I see someone sporting a swastika I think: *death, destruction, evil.* I never associate that symbol with sun worshippers, and definitely not the Star of David.

See what I'm saying? Some things are harmless, while others hold an entirely different purpose. Once we become Christians we must keep ourselves pure of symbols and associations that do not flatter Christ.

[20] Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: [21] "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? [22] These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. **Colossians 2:20-22** **niv 2011**

Search His Word on a daily basis and you'll find yourself knowing exactly what you can and cannot touch. As a good rule of thumb, I start at Genesis and work my way to Revelation. Mosaic Law (something often shunned and scorned under a thick layer of pseudo grace) is an excellent resource.

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Remember, Jesus own words were: *17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. 19 Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.* **Matthew 5:17-19 niv 2011**

Does that mean I have to get out there and start sacrificing and separating my cotton/poly blends? I am chided about this one all of the time!

We have our ultimate sacrifice in Christ; we no longer need to worship that way.

As far as the cotton/poly blends – there's an awesome lesson hidden within that particular law, and what a careful examination of the entire Law (in its own context) will do is reveal the prophecy and wisdom of Jesus Christ. Separating the cloth, for example – and within the entire context of **Leviticus 19:19**: *19 "'Keep my decrees.*

"'Do not mate different kinds of animals. Mating two different kinds of animals often results in sterile offspring (mule) and/or death of the offspring.

"'Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Ever hear of a GMO? Because of this reengineering of wheat, for example, many of us can no longer digest it. And I can't even eat the oats sown within a field of wheat because of the cross-contamination.

"'Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material. Here's a portion of a commentary on this one:

> ...Both the priestly garments and the tabernacle weavings were a combination of wool and linen. The priest's white undergarment was linen, and the brightly colored vestment was wool. So it was prohibited for laypersons to dress in the same way
>
> We actually have similar laws today. Did you realize that it's illegal to dress up in a badge and a uniform to impersonate a police officer? The police are authorized to stop a car, break down a door, or handcuff a person — things no one else may do. In the same way, God had given priests the authority to lead worship in his Holy Presence, and they had to be noticeably different from everyone else
>
> *© 2014 Our Rabbi Jesus*

Noticeably different from everyone else…

The Old Testament (or the First Testimony as I call it) is filled with powerful revelation. As well, it gives a much deeper understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and being *noticeably different from everyone else* for Him. Never underestimate its value, and don't neglect it. It is, after all, God's first testimony of Himself, His majesty, and His glory.

If we find anything within that First Testimony that leaves us questioning whether or not we should be participating in something of the world, it is a good indication that it's off-limits to a Christian.

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