



CHILDREN BROCHURE

MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

S. – Seek & Submit
H. – Hear & Heed
I. – Imagine & Insight
F. – Focus & Function
T. – Totally Transformed

S.H.I.F.T.

Age: 13 yrs. & Over

March 21

Sing with me: Blest are the pure in heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpnU2auc3Rk>

Guildford Cathedral Choir

Blest are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with men,
their pattern and their king.

Still to the lowly soul
he doth himself impart
and for his dwelling and his throne
chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for thee

Memory verse:

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”

Scripture: Proverbs 23: 6 – 8 (NKJV)

Read with me

6 Do not eat the bread of a miser,
Nor desire his delicacies;
7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.
“Eat and drink!” he says to you,
But his heart is not with you.
8 The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up,
And waste your pleasant words.

Let us talk about it.

Today we want to look at the concept of purity or pureness. Consider the need to have a drink or orange juice. You can either squeeze the orange to get the juice or you can open a can or a carton of juice.



or use a squeezer



or you may have



Now which of the methods above will give you pure orange juice? The juice you squeezed with your hand or used a juicer will be pure since you have added nothing, not even water or sugar. The juice in the can is processed. It may have added water, or sugar, or other chemicals to improve its lasting quality.

We are encouraged to drink water. Eight glasses of water a day. Is this pure water? Read the label on your bottle. Yes, go now and exam the water bottle. Where did we get the water from? Think of it. Rivers, springs, underground wells, some people collect rain water for drinking. Now, before the water you drink becomes drinkable, there are certain processes which must be completed to make it pure. In some countries, people have first to boil the water. In some countries, water

must go through a process of filtration, or distillation, to take out certain impurities. Water is treated by adding certain chemicals, like Chlorine, so the water we drink has certain chemicals added, it is then not really pure, since chemicals are added.

So when we talk of pure water, we are still adding chemicals to make it drinkable.

One more thing to look at. Have you heard the expression, “just like pure gold”?



The weight of gold is measured in troy ounces (1 troy ounce = 31.1034768 grams), however its purity is measured in 'carats' or 'karats'. Caratage is the measurement of purity of gold alloyed with other metals. Pure gold is 24 carats, meaning it is not mixed with other metals. Many of us cannot afford to buy pure gold, so we buy cheaper mixes. That is, gold mixed with cheaper metals. Consider the following table which shows the purity of gold in jewelry.

Karats (K) (carats)	Parts of gold (amount of gold)	Purity (% of gold)
24	24/24	99.9
22	22/24	91.7
18	18/24	75
14	14/24	58.3
12	12/24	50
10	10/24	41.7
9	9/24	37.5

Our memory verse is asking us to have a pure heart. With a pure heart, we will surely see God. Is purity of our heart the same as the purity of our orange juice, or our drinking water or a piece

of gold jewelry? Some lessons ago, we established when we talk of the heart in this way, we are not talking about the physical heart which pumps the blood through our bodies and keeps us alive, but we are talking of the spiritual heart.

So what is a pure heart? Take an unopened bottle of purified water, water which has been made pure by removing many of the impurities. Add to the bottle of water some milk. Is that water still pure? What has the milk done to the water? What about the orange juice you squeezed? If you add water and sugar to the juice, will it still be pure? Ask your parents. Are the rings they are wearing pure gold? What about the earrings? Are you wearing an earring? Is it pure gold? I guess not.

A pure heart, we will say is one which focuses on God, and not filled up with the thoughts and desires of the world. Is there anything you need to remove from your heart to make it pure? Our beatitude today tells us only the pure in heart will see God. We read in Ecclesiastes 7: 20 “Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins” This verse is assuring us that God knows our impurities, but it does not mean we cannot try to focus on God. There is nothing we cannot do on our own to attain purity of heart. Yes, we want to follow God, but there are many contaminants, or distractions. We want to follow God, but still we want to play games, we have our school work or we are constantly fighting with family and friends. But does purity of heart mean we cannot enjoy these relations which God has opened for us? No! What it means is that we must not let these things take over, where we cannot focus on God.

God wants you stay focused and not be side tracked by the distractions. God wants you to excel in your sports, in your school work, not spend the night talking to your friends instead of doing your homework. What does Proverbs 23: 7 tell us. “As a man thinks in his heart, so he is.” To develop a good relationship with God then, our hearts must not be contaminated by impure thoughts, like cheating on our homework, or telling lies, or trying to think how you could fool your mother into thinking that you are attending classes, when you are not. Or thinking the teacher cannot see you are watching a movie instead of paying attention to class. In order to see God, our relationship with God must be pure and free from distraction.

This can be achieved by following Jesus and doing the things He wants us to do:

- ✓ We will close with some pointers to ways that you can purify your heart.
- ✓ Dwell on the word of God. Read your Bible, pray every day.
- ✓ Spend some quiet time with God, every day.
- ✓ Watch your words to keep a clean heart. Are you swearing, cursing or saying other unpleasant words to others. Now it is clean up time.
- ✓ Purify your heart by monitoring your thoughts. Do not be overcome by evil thoughts.
- ✓ Consider the influences affecting your heart.
- ✓ Choose your friends carefully, friends who will help you grow.
- ✓ Be repentant. Did you say you are sorry for the wrong you did?
- ✓ Listen to wisdom from others, specifically your parents and teachers.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, my desire is to have a clean and pure heart without the sinful desires, wickedness, bitterness, or anger that keeps me from You. Forgive me for sinning against You with my spirit, my actions, and my words. Please help me to retain the joy, happiness, and peace You offer to me throughout our trials. O Father, I am weak and I easily become bitter, and I need Your strength and power. I believe that Your grace is sufficient for me. Please grant me the strength, wisdom, and power to focus on You completely. Allow my spirit, actions, and attitudes to reflect You. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Activity

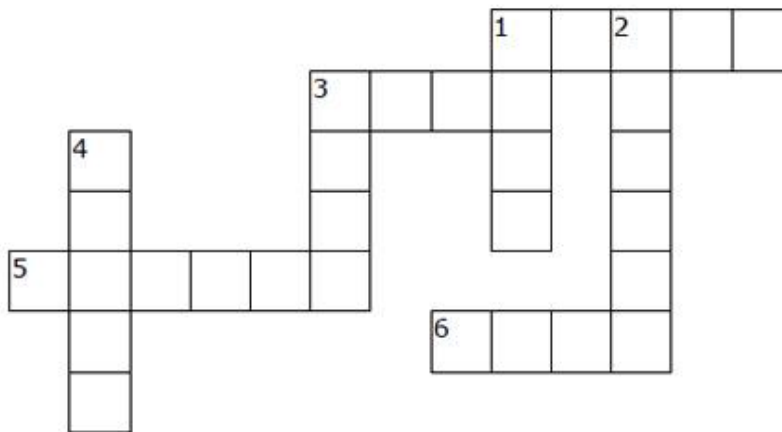
Complete the following crossword puzzle. The words are listed in the puzzle.

The Beatitudes

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me."

Matthew 5:11 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 5:1-12



ACROSS

1. To show great kindness toward others
3. To be without any faults; without sin
5. A need for food
6. To feel happiness, joy and pleasure

DOWN

1. To be humble in spirit or manner
2. A payment received in return for doing good deeds
3. Having little money or few possessions
4. To feel sadness

REWARD	POOR	MOURN	MEEK
HUNGER	PURE	GLAD	MERCY