

Will You Think about My Box?

Is *purity* important to you?

Let me approach the same question another way, using several examples.

Imagine that you are looking for a **new** car. You inspect its body, every inch of the interior. Even if you know little about mechanics, you want to see a lot of shiny parts under the hood. It is **new** and you expect it to be *unblemished*.

When you are served a glass of water at a restaurant and you notice lip prints on the rim of the glass (gross), you send it back. You expect a *clean* glass.

Shopping for an article of clothing you make a selection, but notice a small 'spot.' You put the item back; you expect it to be *unstained*.

When buying a special ring for your wife, would you *prefer* 14 or 24 caret gold? And what about the diamond? *Clarity* is one of the "Four C's" of diamonds that defines value. You probably prefer the *purest* gold and the *clearest* diamond you can afford.

Truth be known, none of us really prefers the *unretouched* portrait photo. We would like people to see our wrinkles softened, stray hair adjusted, the bird that bombed the outdoor photo removed. We prefer to remove the *blemishes*.

Blemishes get our attention and they irritate us: Blemishes, stains, impurities and flaws in everyday life; personal flaws, past sins. They are all a part of life; we prefer life without them. Yet, how often we focus on them, obsess over them.

Some people are really good at noticing blemishes. They often criticize. Show off a new article of clothing and they will zero in on a tiny flaw. They will see the mistake you made in your freshly painted room. You can walk, skip,

hop, and run a hundred miles, and they will remind you of the instant that you stumbled.

The 'quote box' in the middle of this article really irritates some folks. They find it distracting, not because of what is there, but because it is unexpected. An *empty* box in the middle of an article appears to be a flaw.

However, did you notice how *clean* it looks? Did you see how *pure* it is?

I know that it has **never** had words in it. It wasn't an old messy box that I cleaned up.

It started out clean and remains *clean*. *Pure*.

There are different ways to be pure; the Bible describes each. In the Old Testament *sacrifices and rituals* brought about a state of cleanliness before God. (Uncleanliness affected one's standing with God and the community of God's people.) In a practical sense, purity can be achieved by *removing* impurities. In the case of uncleanliness and impurities, something blemished is made pure.

Purity also exists where there has never been a flaw, like my 'quote box.' There is no need of cleansing. For lack of a better explanation, you might call that *perfect purity*. Do you think this kind of 'never-before-blemished' purity is rare?

**Whatsoever things are...pure...
dwell on these things.**

—Philippians 4:8

God invites you to stop! and spend some time thinking about things or people that are pure. (To do this you'll have to refrain from social media and ignore the news for a little while.) So...STOP! Think. Pure people. Pure things.

Is *purity* important to you?