

Create In Me a Clean Heart

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Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Psalm 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

- I. This is the cry of one who has been polluted.
 - A. Lust promises pleasure and satisfaction, but sin delivers just the opposite.
 - B. The feeling of defilement and uncleanness is one of the surprises that sin delivers.
 - C. Sin leaves a stink in the atmosphere around you, and it leaves stains all over everything in your life.
 - D. You grieve much in your heart over your pollution, even if you put on an outward show of pride to try and hide that fact.
 - E. In practical life the pollution of your heart manifests itself continually to your mind.
 - F. The experience of sin does that to your heart.
 - 1. It is like when someone kidnaps another person and holds them hostage.
 - 2. Your mind can never wander far without the chain being yanked and you are back with your sin again.
 - G. Your heart has grown used to dwelling on the things associated with your sin and has formed a habit of thinking in that direction.
 - H. You find yourself entangled in the mess your sin has made and your life becomes about trying to keep it contained so that it doesn't ruin the rest of your life and the lives of others.
 - I. You long for freedom from this obsession and preoccupation.
 - J. You long for the ability to think pure thoughts without the pollution of your sin coming into view in the midst of it.
 - K. You want a clean heart that is free from sin and its stench and its constant torment and beckoning.
 - L. David had brought all this into his heart and life where things used to be clean and pure and right, and he longs to be rid of the mess that he has made of his own heart and mind.

- II. Renew a right spirit within me.
 - A. This is referring to what he once had, but no longer has.
 - B. It is talking about a stable, determination, and resolve to stand and to do right.
 - C. Sin makes a person unstable – it is one of the effects of sin on our heart, mind, and soul.
 - D. We find ourselves struggling with being steadfast.
 - E. We struggle with decisions and making up our mind about things.
 - F. We wobble and are unsure of the decisions we do make.
 - G. We have trouble knowing our way, and therefore have trouble being faithful in any matter.
 - H. David is asking for God to renew a right spirit within him – to give him back the solid assurance in his soul and the ability to know his way again.
 - I. To be able to discern truth from error and right from wrong and know that it is so.
 - J. He wants to be rid of this feeling of being “lost” that sin has wrought in his heart and mind and soul.

III. You cannot have a right spirit without a clean heart.

- A. We may ask God to create in us a clean heart, but it will never happen as long as we refuse to keep our eyes off of unclean things.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

- B. It cannot be something that we expect God to do for us without our cooperation and yielding to his will.
- C. If we turn from our sin and stop feeding the monster, God can then do more for us than we can ask or think, but if we won't God cannot do anything for us.
- D. We cannot have a right spirit with an unclean heart.
 - 1. The pollution in our heart is the root of our unstable spirit.
- E. This is the answer to why so many people are so unstable and unfaithful and so unable to commit to God and the way of righteousness.
- F. Sin is like drug or alcohol, or any other addiction, in that you must get away from it and its influence if you ever hope to be free from its enslavement.
- G. That is the only way to find purpose for your life and existence after sin has ruined your heart and mind and life.

Psalm 51:13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.