



New Beginnings, Volume 16, 2008
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Titus 1:15

“Everything is pure to those whose hearts are pure. But nothing is pure to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, because their minds and consciences are defiled.”

So much of life it seems is perception. As we look at the world around us what do we see? Do we see the world like a glass half full or a glass half empty? Is it partly cloudy or partly sunny? You see, it is how we perceive life that often colors how we experience life. Some people go through life without ever really being happy. The things that they believe determine happiness seem to be out of their grasp. Or worse, the things that they think will make them happy are never enough. We live in a culture that seems to go out of its way to live in unreality rather than reality. It's a culture that uses alcohol, drugs, entertainment and sex to escape from the realities of life. Because these things can't ever really bring happiness, we experience life often as empty, lonely and unfulfilling. It's from that life many try to escape, but they are oblivious to the one proven method to find lasting peace and joy.

The author above is talking about the search for what is pure in this life. He has already determined that we can find purity only by having a heart that is pure. When we seek peace, joy, and fulfillment through impure methods, we are doomed to fail in that pursuit. We can never own enough things or control enough people or resources to find real happiness. The very motive to strive after things to find happiness is bound to fail. The truth is that real happiness can only be found in relationships.

Jesus told his followers that the two greatest commandments could be summed up as: love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Here in lies the great truth of human happiness. Love springs out of the hearts of humankind. Love is of God and from God. God's love is pure unconditional and undefiled. It is the kind of love that God would have be in your heart. When we love as God does than we no longer feel the need to only look after our own desires. We begin to see that real happiness does not come from what I have or control but what I give away and let go of. Peace and joy come to those who love God and others, not those who lust after the things of this world to their and the world's destruction.

I am not suggesting that “getting religion” is the answer to finding human happiness or fulfillment. What I am suggesting is that developing a deep and intimate relationship with God will transform your life and change your perceptions about what constitutes real joy and peace. When God is at the center of our lives we begin to cease to make choices that dishonor us and our relationships. Each day that we begin with God is a day of new beginnings. It is a day of new opportunities to find what is right, what is pure and what is sacred. Why wait another day? Christ is calling you.