

Wisdom From Above—Pure

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BIG SANDY, Texas—There are many sections in the Bible that describe characteristics that disciples seek to inculcate into their lives. One such section is found in James 3:17.

James 3:17—“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

Today, we will discuss the subject of being pure.

Greek word in James 3:17

At this time, let’s focus upon the Greek word in James 3:17 translated as “pure.”

■ *Hagnos* (No. 53 in *Strong’s Concordance*) is the Greek adjective translated as “pure” in James 3:17. It is used in seven other verses.

Philippians 4:8—Meditate upon the things that are pure.

1 Timothy 5:22—Keep yourself pure.

1 John 3:3—Everyone who has hope in God purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2 Corinthians 11:2—Paul used the metaphor of presenting them a chaste (No. 53) virgin to Christ.

Titus 2:5—Older women were expected to teach younger women to be chaste (No. 53).

1 Peter 3:2—Husbands observe their wives chaste (No. 53) conduct.

2 Corinthians 7:11—In all things, you proved yourself to be clear (No. 53) in this matter.

Variations of Greek word

Here are variations of the Greek word *hagnos* in the New Testament.

■ *Hagnizo* (No. 48 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a verb used seven times. Those verses are John 11:55; Acts 21:24; Acts 21:26; Acts 24:18; James 4:8; 1 Peter 1:22; and 1 John 3:3.

James 4:8—"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

■ *Hagneia* (No. 47 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used two times. Those verses are 1 Timothy 4:12 and 1 Timothy 5:2.

1 Timothy 4:12—"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

■ *Hagnismos* (No. 49 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used one time. That verse is Acts 21:26.

■ *Hagnotes* (No. 54 in *Strong's Concordance*) is a noun used one time. That verse is 2 Corinthians 6:6.

Another Greek word

When a Bible student examines the word *pure* in the New Testament, he notices another Greek word—*katharos* (No. 2513 in *Strong's Concordance*). This word is translated as "pure" 17 times. Following are a few examples.

Matthew 5:8—"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

1 Timothy 1:5—"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith."

2 Timothy 2:22—"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Titus 1:15—"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."

James 1:27—"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."