



- A speaker passed a rose around and told all of the kids to touch and smell the rose. Then talked about sexual purity. Afterwards he took the rose and asked, who would want this rose? (Story by Matt Chandler)

PURITY

- *Purity* – Unmixed with any other matter. Free from dust, dirt, or taint. Free from moral fault or guilt. Ritually clean.
- God *is* Purity. He is the Great *unmixed* One (Ex 25:11ff; Hab 1:13; Ps 12:6). Because of our impurity, none of us can see God and live (Ex 33:44).

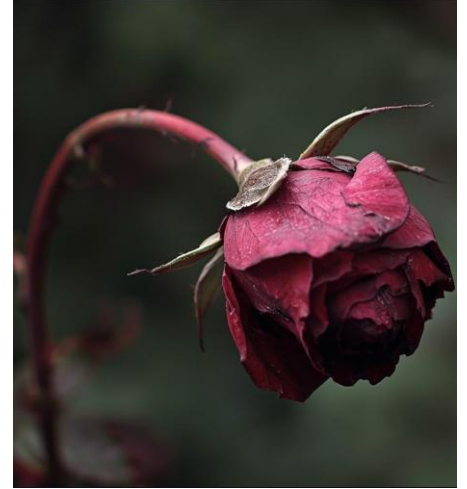
MATTHEW 5:8 - PURITY

- Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*
- This verse gives hope that we can have a pure heart and that we can see God.
- Psalm 24:1-6 – Those who truly have a pure heart will see Him.
 - As God makes peace come from evil chaos, so God can bring those who are impure into His presence as pure.



THE GREAT REVERSAL

- So often in the Old Testament Law, if an Israelite touched something impure (human corpses, unclean animals, blood, various bodily discharges) they would become impure.
- God had a Seraphim touch Isaiah's lips with burning coal to purify him and atone for his sin (Isaiah 6:1-7).
- In Ezekiel 47, the water from the Temple Sanctuary flows into the sea and makes the sea fresh water. It gives life to all it touches.
- Jesus says that for all who believe in Him, this Ezekiel 47 river flows out of Him into them, and this river is the Holy Spirit (Jn 7:38-39).



WHO WOULD WANT THE ROSE?

- The correct answer to that speaker's question, "Who would want the rose?" Jesus wants the rose!
- Let's be "Jesus-wants-the-rose-people!"



GROW IN BEING ON-EARTH-AS-IT-IS-IN-HEAVEN-PEOPLE

1. Believe in Jesus' purifying blood.
2. Cast off your idols, grow in being pure.
3. Take off your façade in order to grow in having an authentically pure heart (Matt 23:25-28).
4. Let us be "Jesus-wants-the-rose-people!"

JESUS WANTS THE ROSE