

# The Inward Person

## I. Introduction

- A. While the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day often appeared righteous outwardly, they failed to please God inwardly. Jesus stressed their need (and our need) to be clean on the *inside*. Consider eight attributes of the "inward man" that is a part of being inwardly clean. **Matthew 23:27-28** (cf. **verse 26**)

## II. Faith

- A. Faith should be the foundation of our lives. **2 Corinthians 5:7**  
B. While walking by faith involves God-pleasing conduct, faith is, in its primary sense, part of the *inward* person. **Hebrews 11:1**  
C. The faith God instructs us to develop is built by hearing and studying God's Word with a proper heart. **Luke 8:11, 15**

## III. Sincerity

- A. Studying God's Word with the proper heart involves *sincerity*. Genuineness is needed in all that we do in service to God. **Philippians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9**

## IV. Spiritual-mindedness

- A. Sincerity of heart is helped by a third key attribute of the inward person, spiritual-mindedness. The apostle Paul well-exemplified this. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 12:9-10**

## V. Zeal

- A. Another part of the inward person that God demands we develop is zeal for Him. Unlike the lukewarm Christians at Laodicea, we must have a fiery passion for the Lord, and direct that toward what He defines as good works. **Revelation 3:15-16, 19; Titus 2:14**

## VI. Meekness

- A. In addition to a spirit of zeal, submitting to what God defines as good works demands a spirit of *meekness*. This attitude accepts God's direction and right to rule our lives. **James 1:21; Hymns for Worship, Songs 128, 146, 343**

## VII. Reverence

- A. An attitude of meekness demands a heart of reverence and godly fear. **Hebrews 12:28**

## VIII. Humility

- A. Reverence is connected to the humility that God demands also be a part of who we are. Such humility demands a proper view of self in relation to God and others. **Philippians 2:3**  
B. Humility also demands a selfless heart that seeks servitude rather than self-exaltation. **Matthew 23:11-12**

## IX. Gratitude

- A. In addition to an attitude of servitude, pleasing God requires an attitude of *gratitude*. Those who are spiritually-minded and humbly acknowledge their dependence on God recognize great reason to be thankful for all He has done. **Colossians 3:15**

## X. Conclusion

- A. Just as God examined who the scribes and Pharisees were inwardly, He does the same with each of us. May we pursue all that God teaches is needful for us to be inwardly clean. **1 Samuel 16:7**