

# Five Qualities Every Christian Laborer Must Possess

## Lesson 5—Godly Purity

### OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Daniel 5:1-12, 22-31

Key Verse: Proverbs 4:23-27

### BEFORE CLASS

**Preparation:** *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how holy is your life?
- To what extent are you prepared to be a “laborer” for Christ?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### Opening Questions

- *When I say “pollutant” or “pollution” what comes to your mind? (i.e., trash, junk, disease, smog, things that are harmful to the environment, etc.)*
- *How do these things make you feel?*
- *What if no one in your family ever took out the trash? How would this affect your home? (i.e., Would you invite friends over? Would you be embarrassed? Would you want to get away from the mess?)*

**SAY:** Pollution is destroying the earth and wasting valuable resources. People make maintaining a cleanly, healthy environment—both inside buildings and

### CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

*CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.*

*CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.*

*CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.*

*THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.” Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.*

outdoors—a priority. But why doesn't anyone ever think about spiritual pollution—the kind of junk that builds up inside one's soul?

- *What would you describe as “soul pollution”?* (Things that are harmful to the soul, the trash and filth with which the world will try to fill a person up.)
- *What exactly pollutes the soul?* (Spiritual “junk” that comes our way in magazines, on television, radio, the Internet, and in movies... sexual images, violence, vulgar language, and pornography, or ideologies that cloud the line between right and wrong, etc.)
- *In what ways do some people have a life that is like a home where the trash is never taken out?*

*SAY:* We've been focusing on what it will take for you to live for Christ and influence those around you. Today is the last day of the series: *The Five Qualities Every Christian Laborer Must Possess*. The four qualities we've already discussed are:

- (1) Godly Speech,
- (2) Godly Conduct,
- (3) Godly Love,
- (4) Godly Faith/Faithfulness

*SAY:* Today we're going to look at the fifth quality which is: Godly Purity (or Holiness).  
To effectively live for Christ you must be holy.

## **BIBLE LESSON**

- *What do you think is the opposite of holy?* (Most people will answer “unholy” or “evil” and while this is true in a moral sense, since the word “holy” literally means “set apart,” a more accurate opposite would be “ordinary, common, or average.”)
- *[Answer this silently to yourself] The way you are living your life right now, would you characterize yourself as “holy”—set apart for God's purpose or “ordinary, common, or average”—just like the rest of the world? Are you happy with this?*

### Choose a volunteer to read—Read Daniel 5:1-4

*SAY:* After years of idolatry God finally judged His people and sent against them a cruel nation called Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar. It was during this time that Daniel was taken to Babylon as a prisoner along with others such as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, (whom Nebuchadnezzar threw into the fiery furnace). At this time the temple was destroyed and the items that were created for and used in the temple for worship were taken as well. Some of these were the items of gold mentioned in these verses. These items were considered “holy” items because they were “set apart” for, made for and devoted to God's use, but King Belshazzar decided to use them for his party. Let read on...

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Daniel 5:5-12

- *How would you feel if this happened to you? What do you think about the king's reaction?*
- *Why in verse 12 did the queen say that Daniel had been summoned in the past to help? (Because Daniel had an "extraordinary spirit." He wasn't ordinary. He was extra-ordinary because of his special relationship with God. He wasn't average or common, but set apart.)*
- *Think about it: What do you think it would take for you to be described as a person with an extraordinary spirit? How has your relationship with God made you extra-ordinary?*

**SAY:** Daniel had been set apart by God for His purposes just like the items that King Belshazzar had misused for his own pleasure. And like the queen requested, the king sent for Daniel. Listen to the interpretation that he gave for the writing on the wall:

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Daniel 5:22-31

**SAY:** The inscription meant that Belshazzar's kingdom was coming to an end and the king died that very night. God's hand of judgment was against him because he had misused what God had set apart for Himself.

- *What do you think we can learn from this?*
  - (1) Be careful not to misuse what God has made and set apart for Himself.
  - (2) There are consequences for misusing what God has set apart for Himself.
- *What are some things that God has set apart for Himself that we might misuse? (i.e., Songs of worship—just singing words but not worshipping; the Bible—carrying it in our hands and not in our hearts; the Church—using it as a social club instead of allowing it to be the family of God and an open door to those who are lost; Our lives—believing God's Word with our minds and mouths but not living it out in our actions; etc.)*
- *As a Christian the Bible is very clear that you are created in Christ for and set apart for God's purpose. What are some ways that people misuse their lives? What do you think are some of the consequences for this misuse? (Emptiness, a useless life, a life lived apart from God's blessing, etc.)*

**KEY VERSE**

**SAY:** Let's talk about where you are in life for a minute. I want you to be honest and I want to go around the room and have everyone give an answer:

- *If you were to summarize the reason you feel that God created you in one sentence, what would you say? For example, “God created me...”*
- *Is there anything specific that you feel God wants with your life? Do you feel like He has set up apart for something specific?*
- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how polluted is your soul? How do you think this will affect what God wants to do in your life?*
- *[Answer this silently to yourself] If your whole life were judged by how you lived this past month, what do you think God would say to you? Are you happy with this?*
- *What do you think are the most common types of “soul pollution” with which most Christians are tempted? How can they guard themselves?*

*SAY:* Every day each of us is surrounded by spiritual pollution. The key is for us to learn discernment—to be able to identify what is right and wrong, to choose appropriate movies, to know when to turn off the TV or flip the radio station or to avoid certain Internet sites. Everyday we are surrounded by sexual images, violence, vulgar language, the opportunity to view pornography, and every form of spiritual pollution, but the Bible tells us how to stay pure: Devote yourself to holiness. Be set apart and live for the things for which God has set you apart. Be wise not to misuse your life.

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Proverbs 4:23-27*

*SAY:* The Bible says to use all diligence to guard your heart.

- *What realistic steps can you take this week to guard your heart?*
- *From what do you think you need to guard your heart?*

**WRAP IT UP**

**Prayer Time**

*Pray specifically today that your students will be committed to holiness, that they will be extraordinary in spirit and set apart for God’s purpose.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

