

Sermon Handout

Clean Hands, Pure Heart

Psalm 24:1-5

I. The Requirements for Approaching God Ps 24:3-4

- a. Entering God's presence requires holiness
 - i. Clean hands – innocent, guiltless
 - ii. Pure heart – undefiled, clean
 - iii. These require humility & integrity v. 4b
 - iv. This is an impossible standard without God's redemptive grace.
- b. The nexus between heart and hands
 - i. "Let us turn to God" Lam 3:39-41
 - ii. With our hands, we lift up our soul Ps 25:1; 86:4; 143:6-8
 - iii. *Sursum Corda* – a liturgical practice since the 3^d Century

II. The Practice of Lifting Hands in Worship

- a. The church is one, comprising many; it acts *in unison*
- b. Two modes of hand-raising (purpose & practice)
 - i. Conferring God's blessing upon his people Lev 9:22-23; Lk 24:50
 1. It places God's name upon them Num 6:22-27
 2. It protects them from harm Ex 17:8-13
 - ii. Lifting up hearts (souls) to the Lord in worship
 1. In supplication & confession
Ezra 9:5; I Kg 8:22, 52-54; Ps 28:2; Lam 2:19, 3:41; I Tim 2:8
 2. In praise & thanksgiving (*see* Moses in Dt 32:40)
Ps 63:4; 134:1-3 *cf.* 135:1-3; 141:1-2; 119:48
Neh 8:6 – Ezra speaks, the people worship
 3. Angels signify their allegiance to God this same way
Dan 12:7; Rev 10:5

III. Liturgical and Practical Application

- a. Two appropriate moments in corporate worship
 - i. Confession & Absolution *cf.* Ezra 9:5-6; Lam 3:41-42
 - ii. After the benediction is pronounced Lev 9:22
- b. The intended effect on the way we live
 - i. A reminder of our need for ongoing forgiveness
 - ii. A reminder that God's blessing purifies and sustains us
We are those upon whom God has placed his Holy Name.