11/1/2026

Portrayal of the King(dom)

PURE IN HEART – MATTHEW 5:8

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1-Nov 26 | Portrayal of the King(dom)
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HOUSEKEEPING

- Good morning everyone, my name is Nathan Sharpes, and I'm one of the Elders here at CrossRoads Community Church.
- Pastor Bob and Ginnie are visiting family this week, so I'm happy to honor them by allowing them precious time with family, and I'm privileged that you'd hear my teaching today. And I really meant that. Coming off of Pastor Appreciation Month, I'm thankful for you all. You know I can convince myself that I study the bible a lot, but it's nothing like the depth I go into to prepare to teach. So selfishly, thank you all for the opportunity for me to draw closer to God, and I hope to bring you along for the ride.

INTRODUCTION

- We've been going through the book of Matthew. If you have you're bible with you this morning I invite you to turn there. If you don't, have your Bible with you, I'd exhort you to bring it with you next time. Don't take for granted the privilege it is to possess a copy of God's word, or the skill it is to navigate it. If you don't own a Bible, come see me after service, you can have this one…
- We've made it to Chapter 5 in Matthew, which begins the first recorded sermon of Jesus, which has come to be known as the Sermon on the Mount, and spans Matthew Chapters 5 through 7, beginning with what we've been looking at most recently, the Beatitudes, a series of "Blessed are…" statements.
    - We've been spending so much time on these Beatitudes, going through each one individually and studying them in our Community Grounds, because they form, the foundation which is expounded up for the rest of the sermon. In coming weeks, as we progress through the Sermon on the Mount, we'll be able to trace these ideas for what it means to be in the Kingdom of God back to the concepts laid out in the Beatitudes.
- Today, we'll be looking specifically at Matthew 5:8, but I'll start reading in Matthew 5:1 for context.
- Matthew 5:1 (ESV): **Seeing the crowds, he** [Jesus] **went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.**
- Matthew 5:2 (ESV): **And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:**
- Matthew 5:3 (ESV): **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- Matthew 5:4 (ESV): **"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**
    - You're poor in spirit because you recognize how powerless you are to save yourself, and you mourn over sin that's placed you in this state. But the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who seek God and his provision rather than relying on their own strength. And in their weakness they will be comforted and made strong by the very presence of God, in them.
- Matthew 5:5 (ESV): **"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.**

    - As the sayings goes, “meekness a’int weakness”, rather meekness is strength controlled. Those who belong to the kingdom of heaven have the very power of Christ in them, but we don’t use this power as a license to sin, as a license to gratify the flesh, but rather to humble ourself and serve one another. To such as these, at the second coming of Christ, they shall inherit the New Earth and rein with Him.
- Matthew 5:6 (ESV): **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.**
    - Its not our own righteousness we attempt to produce through our own efforts, that’d be self-righteousness, but in alignment with the other Beatitudes, it is the righteousness of Christ, that we receive through faith in Him, that we ought to hunger for. And in that proper pursuit of righteousness, we’re promised that we will be satisfied, by receiving the presence of Christ and His righteousness, not ours but His, in us. And that is the only thing that could ever satisfy our souls.
- Matthew 5:7 (ESV): **“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.**
    - The sacrifice of Jesus at the cross took the penalty for our sin, that we could receive mercy– that is not receiving what we do deserve, which is death and damnation, but much more by His resurrection we receive grace, the unmerited favor of eternal life. And having received such a gift of grace and mercy, we are compelled to act towards others in the manner that Christ has acted towards us.
    - And now for our focus verse of today, Matthew 5:8
- Matthew 5:8 (ESV): **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**
- May God add a blessing to the reading and the hearing of his Holy Word.

PURE HEART

- I used to travel a good bit for work. Since my daughter was born, not so much anymore, but I used to travel any chance I got.
- I’m a Depart of War civilian, employed by the Army and I design new equipment for Soldiers. I’ll leave it at that.
- What drew me to civilian service was foremost the service aspect of the job. Well… I reckon foremost was really a clear leading of the Holy Spirit that this is the direction I should go in my life and how I was specifically meant to use the talents God had made me with. So, in that light it didn’t really matter if I liked the job or not, it was obedience to God that brought me here… but I do like that the job involves service to country and the closeness I feel to God when I’m designing a new thing that works. I image its similar to the joy God felt when he created the universe and it was good.
- But there’s another aspect of my job that I came to appreciate later and that was what I’ll call singular focus.

- I mentioned I used to travel a lot. Why I did that was to go to what are called Soldier Touchpoints, where Soldiers train with the new equipment you give them and provide feedback.
- Not having the experience as a Soldier myself, I wanted to make sure I understood firsthand the needs of those who I was designing equipment for.
- Spending more and more time with Soldiers it became clear to me that for the average infantryman, at any given time they only had one thing going on– which was the mission given to them at that particular time.
    - In fact, when a Soldier becomes a Soldier after basic training, they say the Soldier's Creed. The Soldier's Creed is a number of lines long, but part of the creed is as follows:
        - "I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values. I will always place the mission first."
    - It was this "mission first" mindset that fascinated me, one that permeates into the civilian service as well. Army Civilians profess a similar creed when they're hired.
- But something else I have noticed in the military is the pervasiveness of Christianity, and it's something I'd attribute to this "mission-first", singular focus mindset that so well aligns with Christianity.

- The Apostle Paul embodied this kind of singular focus when he came to preach the gospel to the people of Corinth. Paul said in 1 Corinthians chapter 2.
    - 1 Corinthians 2:1 (ESV): **And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.**
    - 1 Corinthians 2:2 (ESV): **For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.**
        - A little silly but I've added a diagram I saw of all the things the Apostle Paul knew when he went to Corinth… nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified, and perhaps directions on how to get to Corinth…
        - "Hey Paul did you have a good weekend?" – "Of course I did, because Jesus Christ was crucified for my sins". "Hey Paul wasn't that an exciting chariot race the other day?" – "You know what gets me excited is thinking about Jesus Christ and how he was crucified for the forgiveness of my sins so now by his resurrection I can live in freedom". You can imagine how every conversation would have been like.
        - It'd be kind of like how every sports interview is the same interview. Have you noticed that? "How did you manage to win today?" – "Well you know we just took it one play at a time. The coaches came in with a good game plan and we just tried to execute and leave it all on the field."

        - And I say that a little in jest, but there is a certain mindset you have to stay in to achieve something with excellence, and that mindset is singularly focused or you could say single-minded.
    - I want to link two ideas for you now, the pure heart with the single-mind. Let's look at James chapter 4…
        - James 4:7 (ESV): **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**
        - James 4:8 (ESV): **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**
    - If you have an impure heart it leads to a double-mind, a mind that is divided against itself. You have divided loyalties, conflicting desires, an internal struggle between trusting in God or trusting in self, trusting in your flesh, trusting in the things of the world.
- I've shown my take on the trichotomy diagram the past couple of times I've preached. I find it to be a good way to visualize what's going on where in our identity, all the parts that make up who are.
    - So we're talking about the heart and the mind. The heart is your innermost being, save for the spirt, which is the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, if you're a Christian, otherwise you're "in Adam" as scripture calls it. The heart, I say, is that interface between the Soul and the Spirit. The mind is in the Soul, the part of you that goes on into eternity.
    - There is a constant battle in all of us for how our Soul gets nourished. You can either harden you Heart and subsequently look to the flesh, getting its power through the things of this world as sustained by the body, or you can soften your Heart allowing the power of the Spirit to radiate through and look to Christ to sustain you.
    - Suffice to say, what's going on in your Heart makes its way to your Mind and eventually manifests itself in actions.
    - Therefore, to have a single mind, one that is focused solely on the mission of one day seeing God in his glory, you must have a pure heart.
- "So how do you have a pure heart then!?" I hope you're asking impatiently…
- Psalm 119 tells us…
    - Psalm 119:9 (ESV): **How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.**
    - Psalm 119:10 (ESV): **With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!**
    - Psalm 119:11 (ESV): **I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**
    - It's The Word… The Word of God shored up in our hearts that keeps our hearts pure. Seeking God, not wondering after something else with a divided double mind. That's the way to do it.

- God's word provides a way to keep your heart pure and unsurprisingly Jesus promised us that the very blessing of purifying yourself with God, is God. Blessed are the pure in heart (who have purified their heart with the Word of God), for they shall see the God who they sought after in the first place. It starts with God, it flows through us and carries us along right back to God where we wanted to be in the first place.
- Now before we get to far into the "seeing God" part of the Beatitude, I want to take a bit to talk though living out this pure heart business…

INTEGRITY

- I mentioned the Army Soldier's Creed earlier, which itself mentions living the Army values. The Army has the following core values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage.
- I want to connect two things now, purity, as in pure in heart, and integrity, as in single-minded.
- If you look it up, there's definitions all over the place of what exactly integrity means, but if you overlap them all there's consistently references to actions, to morals, and to ethics, and I'd like to break those down.
    - Morals are personal in nature. They're your internal sense of right and wrong– conclusions you've come to based on your own experiences that shape how you perceive the world.
    - Ethics are external in nature. They are rules or standards imposed on you by an external source. Your employers may have a code of ethics you're bound to follow… the government has laws… CrossRoads Community Church has a membership covenant… and the Bible… these are all examples of standards placed on you.
    - Actions are what you actually do. Morals and Ethics are immaterial, they're thoughts, beliefs. Actions are material, a manifestation of will.
    - So morals are individual in nature, what you internalize; ethics are external in nature, expectations you have levied on you, and actions are what you physically do.
    - What this looks like in your Christian life is something like what I've shown in the Venn diagram. You've got to have of all three, morals, ethics, and actions in alignment, because the concurrence of the three is what I'd define as integrity. Now where we mess it up is if we're lacking in one or more of these areas. Let's see what that looks like. If you have…
        - Morals only: Then you're just a philosopher. All introspective selfish thoughts, no action, no external guidance. If you have…
        - Ethics only: Then you're a politician. You just make rules. You don't believe in them, and you don't follow them either. And if you have…
        - Actions only: You're a hamster running on a wheel. You don't think about why, you're not accomplishing anything, you just go.

- But we're not one-dimensional beings, we're not dominated by any one category. More often it's a combination of two. So let's see how that looks.
- Morals + Actions: This is what I'd call a moral relativist. This is when you do not know the Word of God, or else choose to ignore it. And in the ignorance of, or irreverence to, sound doctrine, the relativist defines their own set of beliefs. These beliefs are not based on anything but how you feel at the time. You pick and choose your morals as is convenient, and you live out "your truth" as you define it. In short the moral relativist has contempt for God's authority, by not acknowledging His commands as sovereign. This was the original sin when Satan asked Eve in the Garden of Eden, "Did God really say…?". And when we let our Ethics slip, we ask:
  - "Did God really say I can't do that?"
  - "Was there really original sin? How can all people be inherently evil and in need of a Savior?"
  - "I don't really need to repent and be baptized do I? God wouldn't really judge me would he?"
  - The answer to all of those is, "Yes", but in the absence of being confronted with the truths of scripture we internalize and act on the desires of our flesh, rather than the wisdom of the Spirit of Christ in us… if you're a Christian that is, otherwise all you have is the flesh and all I'd expect from you is relativism. But we ought not be that way. Another way we ought not be is to be absent morals and have only Ethics and Actions…
- Ethics + Actions: This is what I'd call a subservient. You go through the motions, you follow the rules and do what you're told. This is when you do know the Word of God, as far as it's been told to you, and you follow it as much as you have to, because you don't truely believe it in your heart. You suppose your rule following earns you salvation. This is a worldly faith, if indeed you could call this type of living "faith", because you're putting your faith in the things of this word to save you, namely your own performance. When we let our morals slip we begin to look for the approval of others, rather than the approval of God, and we ought not do that.
  - But lest you hear what I've just said and think, "Hey the trouble is when I start doing the wrong things for the right reasons, or the right things for the wrong reasons, I'm just going to stop doing stuff… I can't possibly be in sin if I'm not doing anything in the first place… but that brings us to the last incomplete segment in our diagram, Morals and Ethics.
- Morals + Ethics: This is what I'd call being a hypocrite. You know what the bible says and you believe it, but you don't do anything about it. The book of James speaks to this kind of action-absent Christianity....
  - James 1:22 (ESV): **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.**

- James goes on to say in chapter 2 verse 26…
- James 2:26 (ESV): **For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works** [that is actions] **is dead.**
- And further in chapter 4 verse 17…
- James 4:17 (ESV): **So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.**
- So if you don't follow through on what the Bible says and what you believe to be its truthfulness and authority in your life, then you're deceiving yourself, your faith is dead, and you're in sin.
    - If you don't act on the commands of scripture and the promptings of the Holy Spirit, then you're deceiving yourself, your faith is dead, and you're in sin
- You deceive yourself in terms of your sanctification. Catholics might say you're deceiving yourself in terms of your salvation, but I'd strongly disagree with that. Your saving faith is there, its just dead looking.
- You could define death as, "ceasing to perform vital functions".
- But like how the body was living before you're saved, it was however dead in the sense that it couldn't fulfill its purpose, which is to give glory to God. So to if your faith isn't outwardly giving glory to God, it too is dead in the sense that it isn't doing its primary functions.
- Directly after the Beatitudes, in Matthew 5:16, Jesus, using the illustrations of salt and lights says:
    - Matthew 5:16 (ESV): **In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.**
    - You don't call God "Father" unless you're already saved, and if you are saved, then good works that give glory to your Father should follow. The works did not, and do not, save you, but they are evidence that the saving took place, and that your faith is strong, and that you're being sanctified, growing in holiness, becoming more like the example of Christ.
- Do not think that because your salvation was purchased for you by Christ and given to you as a free gift, that you can just chill the rest of your life. Christ set you free from being a slave to sin, but so that you'd be slaves to righteousness instead, as it says in Romans chapter 6…
- Romans 6:17 (ESV): **But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,**
- Romans 6:18 (ESV): **and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.**

        - Romans 6:19 (ESV): **I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members** [that is your body and its parts] **as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.**
        - Just as you couldn't help but sin before you were saved, so too now after you've been saved you shouldn't be able to stop yourself from giving in to the urge to be sanctified. You desire more of Christ in you. You desire to give your Father glory for what he's done for us. When and where the Spirit leads you follow and you do.
    - I'm putting so much emphasis on this actionless type of lacking integrity, because I see it as a characteristic of this age of the "big C" Church. It was a while ago, but you might recall that Jesus addresses seven church in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, which I believe are symbolic of the progression of Christianity over time. I believe we're in the last church age before Jesus returns, which is symbolized by the Church of Laodicea, and to that Church Jesus says:
    - Revelation 3:15 (ESV): **I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!**
        - Put another way, "You hypocrites! Don't think you're hot if you're doing nothing. It'd be better if you realized you were cold so you could repent. You're cold, but think you're hot, so you're neither.
    - Revelation 3:16 (ESV): **So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.**
    - Revelation 3:17 (ESV): **For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing," not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.**
        - Or as James might put it, you're deceiving yourself, your faith is dead, and you're in sin.
        - Now that part about being spit out, it sounds harsh, and it is, rightfully so, but it's not contradicting what I said earlier about how works or actions aren't part of salvation. The spitting out isn't damnation, its discipline. The rest of Revelation 3, paraphrase is mine, says that God disciplines those whom He loves, you need refining, so repent and accept Jesus through faith, because he's there knocking at the door to your heart.
- So there's a bunch of ways to get it wrong, but there is one way to get it right, and that way has a name, and that name is Jesus Christ, the greatest example of purity of heart and integrity that there ever could be.
    - Morals + Ethics + Actions: The concurrence of all three, that's integrity. You have a solid foundation in God's Word as your Ethics, and the saving faith and belief to go along with it as your Morals. Your love and service toward

others is demonstrated by Actions as manifested in one or more Fruits of the Spirit.

- Integrity… its not math, it's a matter of the heart, however the root of the word "integrity" does come from the word "integer", which is a mathematical term for a whole number. One is an integer. It's a whole number. It's not a fraction. It's not one-half, or one-quarter, or one-eighth, it's one, it's whole.
- Integrity is a life of wholeness. Integrity is a life of wholeness.
    - Its when we speak, the words are whole, they're all true. Not half the words are true. Not a third of the words are true. All the words are true and it's because of what Jesus describes in Luke 6:45
        - Luke 6:45 (ESV): **The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**
        - So whatever you have in your heart is going to be coming out of your mouth. How do you know if you have a pure heart? One way is to try examining what words are coming out of your mouth and by extension the though in your mind.
            - If some are evil and some are good, you lack integrity.
            - If there's some blessing and some cursing, you lack integrity.
            - If there's some building others up, and some tearing people down, you lack integrity.
            - If there's some praise and some grumbling, you lack integrity.
            - And it's a heart issue! And you might be like we'll I'll just hold my tongue then, but that's little better. Its treating a symptom, but the cancer is still there. The impurity is still in your heart.
        - Like I just described, if there is some part of this integrity diagram that is deficient for you, it will introduce impurities into your heart and prevent wholeness and the blessing that come from a pure heart.
    - All the days of a person of integrity are lived toward the Lord. What we do here in public, we do in private. What we do on Sunday is what we do on Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday... We don't just read the word of God on Sunday. We don't just praise God on Sunday. We don't just pray to God on Sunday. Every day, not a fraction of the days, but all days, the whole week, for a whole lifetime, to live in wholeness, and integrity, and purity of heart.
    - And its not just, "oh I got to do it because I have to. "Better deny myself and pick up my cross to follow Jesus." It is that, but it's not just that. There's blessing in leading a life of integrity. There's blessing in having a pure heart.

SEE GOD

- The promised blessing to those who are pure in heart, is that they get to see God. How cool is that!? We read that and were just like, "oh yeah… pure heart, that's

nice, see God, ok sounds good…". No… what!? The promise is held out there that we get to see the immaterial, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, created the universe with a command, God, whose Spirit somehow indwells the Believer and becomes part of our identity, who we know but haven't seen, whose ways are greater than our ways, whose appearance we barely have words to describe, whose being we don't have context to understand… we get to see Him!? That's awesome!

- The only reason I can think of that you've been so patient with me up to this point and not like, "Hey Nathan, diagrams are cool and all, but can you get to the part where we get to see God?" is that we don't have a context to fully grasp what it'll be like. 1 Corinthians 13:12 puts it this way:
    - 1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV): **For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.**
    - Now that may sound a bit confusing for us with our LED-lined vanities, but in the first century AD, a mirror would have been a polished piece of bronze. You can imagine, polishing by hand with the methods available at the time, you can only get a piece of metal but so shiny, resulting in a reflected image that was dim and hard to see much level of detail.
- So what does this "dim" reflection of God look like as described in the Bible? The prophet Ezekiel received a vision of the throne room of God when he was called by God to be a Prophet to an exiled Israel in Babylon. And he saw…
    - Ezekiel 1:26 (ESV): **~~And~~ above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.**
    - Ezekiel 1:27 (ESV): **And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him.**
    - Ezekiel 1:28 (ESV): **Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.**
        - You can hear, Ezekiel struggling to describe the appearance of God. Paraphrase is mine, but Ezekiel is saying, "You know God was on what looked like a throne that was made out of I guess sapphire, and He looked kind of like a person, but his torso resembled shiny metal, and I couldn't see the rest of Him because there was like fire and bright rainbows or something… I don't know I just fell on my face and the Holy Spirit had to come and help me up."
    - A contemporary of Ezekiel, Daniel saw this:

    - Daniel 7:9 (ESV): **As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days** [that's God] **took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.**
        - A similar description to Ezekiel, lots of fire around the throne of God, but Daniel adds that his hair and clothing were pure white.
    - And not so long ago we finished our study of the book of Revelation, in chapter 1, John, in the Spirit, sees God:
    - Revelation 1:12 (ESV): **Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,**
    - Revelation 1:13 (ESV): **and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man** [that means resembling a person]**, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.**
    - Revelation 1:14 (ESV): **The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,**
    - Revelation 1:15 (ESV): **his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.**
    - Revelation 1:16 (ESV): **In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.**
        - So here we get a little more clarity, perhaps. Ezekiel said God's torso, if you call it that, was like "gleaming metal", here John calls it a "golden sash". And like Daniel, John see's God's hair is white. New description by John is that God's feet are like burnished or polished bronze, and His eyes are fiery, and His whole face is like the sun. In fact, I won't read it here, but Revelation chapter 21 tells us that there's no need the Sun and Moon in the New Heaven because God's Glory gives the light.
    - And the final description of God's appearance, in Revelation chapter 4 it says…
    - Revelation 4:2 (ESV): **At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.**
    - Revelation 4:3 (ESV): **And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.**
    - Jasper and carnelian are both red stones, maybe giving the appearance of fire that the other passages describe? But here again rainbows proceeding in an aura all around God.
- Now that's just a partial, dim, view of God, but it was enough to make Ezekiel fall on his face. How much more awesome do you think it'll be when we see God not just a vision, but face to face, in person, in glory? Its hard to imagine. But I'll tell you what, I sure do what to see it.

CONCLUSION

- I'll conclude with this as the praise team comes…
- To grow in purity of heart, we must continually, with a single-mind, think on eternity. First John chapter 3 tells us…
    - 1 John 3:2 (ESV): **Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared;** [that is we see dimly] **but we know that when he appears** [that is Jesus at the second coming] **we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.** [we'll be glorified with Jesus so we can see him in his glory][Now pay attention to this]
    - 1 John 3:3 (ESV): **And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**
        - Everyone who hopes in the future second coming of Jesus purifies himself now, in the present, because Jesus is pure, in unity and integrity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and in our sanctification process, our becoming more holy process, we become more like Jesus, which is to become pure in heart.
- Its common to humanity to look up at the sky in wonder. I believe that is the draw of our Creator to seek him. One day we'll see him as He is, in glory, but I don't want you to leave here thinking it's entirely a future thing. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." is yes, a promise of future glory, but also a reality now. We see God now in creation Psalm 19 says…
    - Psalm 19:1 (ESV): **The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**
    - Psalm 19:2 (ESV): **Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.**
    - Theologians call this General Revelation. You just have to look around at creation to come to the knowledge that there is a God. And just like things we create (art, music, works of engineering), they give evidence of the character of their creator.
- But to the one who has a pure heart, they have access to what theologians call the Specific Revelation of God. Not just general knowledge that there is a God, but through His word we know the specific character of Yahweh God and how He works in us and through us. Therefore, the pure in heart see God as he's working specifically in their own lives.
    - We see God in the trials. When others see hopelessness, we see God working all things for the good of those who are called according to His purposes.
    - We see God in our acts of worship. The pure heart is sensitive to the experience of God as we study his word, sing, pray, fellowship with others, and serve one another. These aren't burdensome acts to the one with a pure heart, they are seeing and experiencing God in the here and now, as much as that's possible in the here and now.
- And in the future, wow, what it'll be like to be in glory with God.

- Its good to want to see God, in all things, and he promises us that those, who by faith, keep a pure heart, that they shall see God. Awesome.

PRAYER
Please pray with me.

Father God, I thank you for who you are and what you've done for us. You've guided our hearts to purity in you. You've saved our souls. You made a way for us to know you and to one day see you face to face. I pray Lord that I accurately exposited on the meaning of your Holy Word. Wherever I managed to do that, I pray the teaching may be committed to memory. Wherever I strayed from Your Word and inserted my own, I ask that those words would be quickly forgotten, and that the Spirit would intercede with correction.

Purify our hearts, God, that we may see you. May it be the single desire of our heart, the goal against which all our thoughts and actions are compared, to know you, to be known by you, and to one day see you face to face.

Until that day, God we love you, here and now, and we praise your Holy Name. Amen.

RESPONSE SONG INTRODUCTION | SINGLE MIND

- This is our time of response. We'll collect the offering as the baskets come around, but what this time is really for is for you to consider what you've just heard, examine your heart, and do business with God.
- We're going to play a new song to CrossRoads called Single Mind.
- As the praise team plays, I want you to consider if you are of a single mind. Is it your greatest heart desire to see God? Or are there impurities in your heart that need to be refined out and made pure? Does your speech give evidence of a pure heart? Are you living a life of integrity? Are you deficient in some area preventing you from achieving wholeness. Ask God for wisdom in these things and to reveal to you where you need to grow in holiness.

Portrayal of the King(dom)



Portrayal of the King(dom)

Part 8: Pure in Heart

Matthew 5:1-4

ESV

1. Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:
3. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Portrayal of the King(dom)

Part 8: Pure in Heart

Matthew 5:5-8

ESV

5. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
7. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
8. **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

- **Singular Focus**

  Soldier's Creed,
  1 Corinthians 2:1-2



Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

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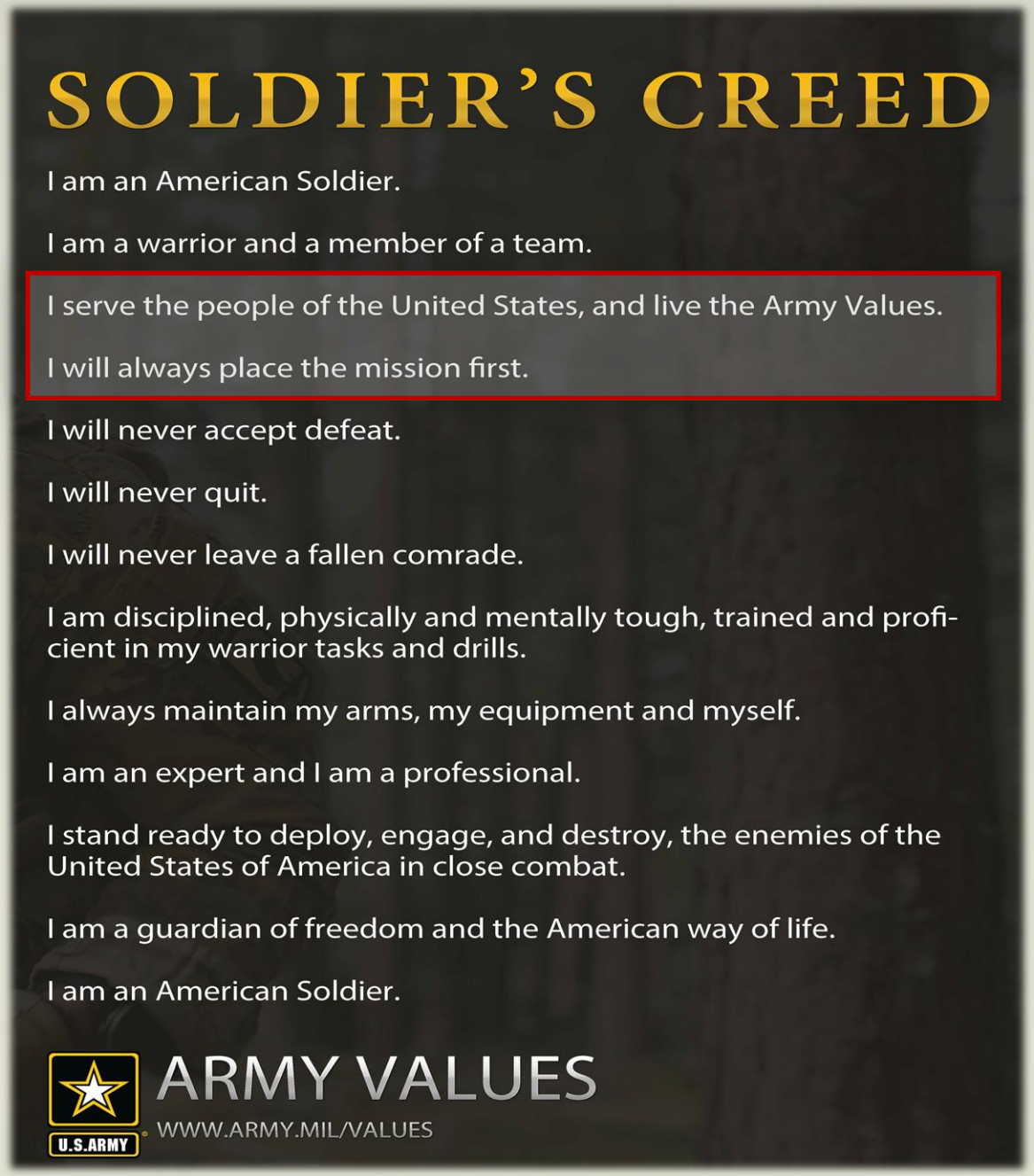


Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

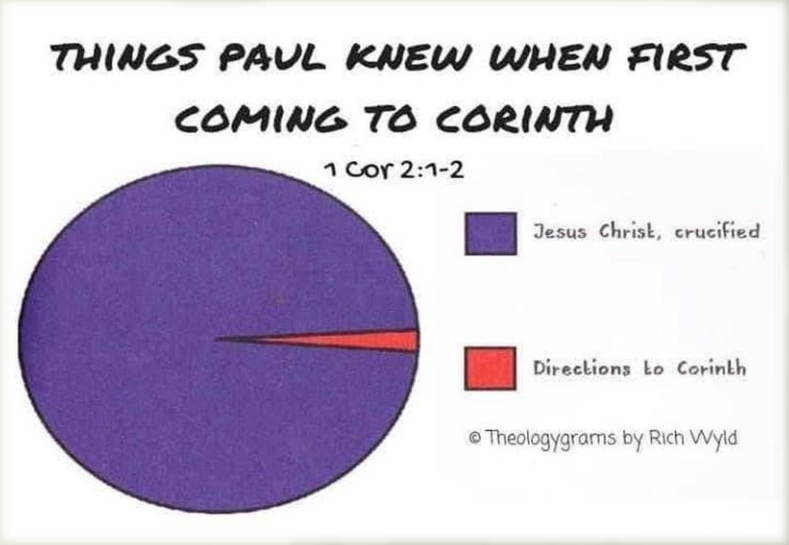
- **Singular Focus**

  Soldier's Creed,
  1 Corinthians 2:1-2

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

ESV

1. And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom.
2. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.



Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

- **Singular Focus**

  Soldier's Creed,
  1 Corinthians 2:1-2

- **Single Mind**

  James 4:7-8

James 4:7-8

ESV

7. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
8. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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- **Single Mind**
  James 4:7-8
- **Pure Heart**
  Psalm 119:9-11

Psalm 119:9-11

ESV

9. How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
10. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!
11. I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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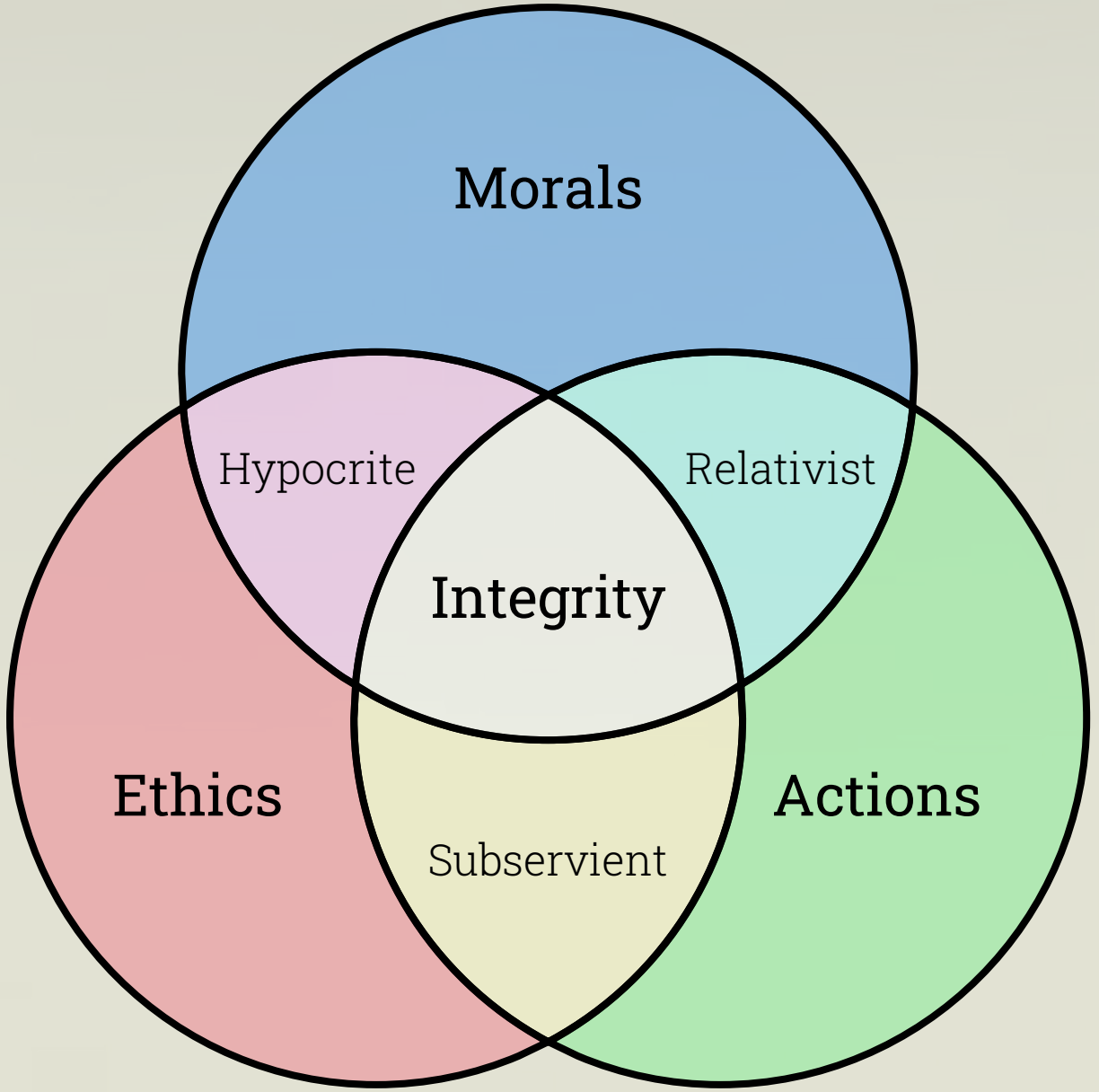

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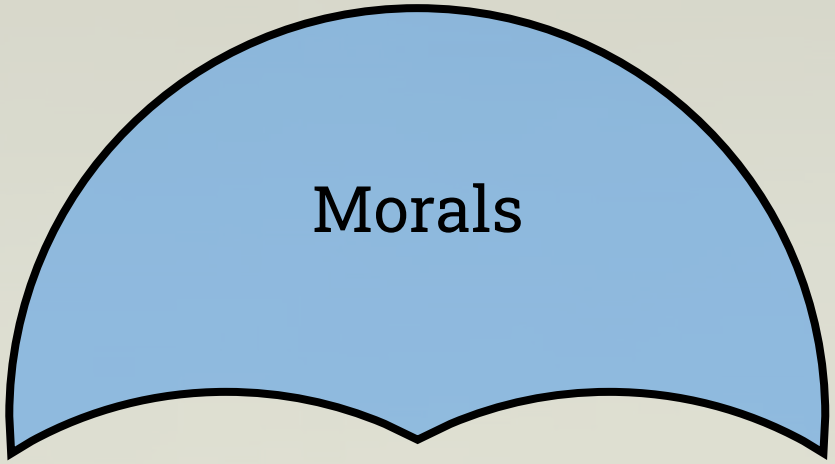
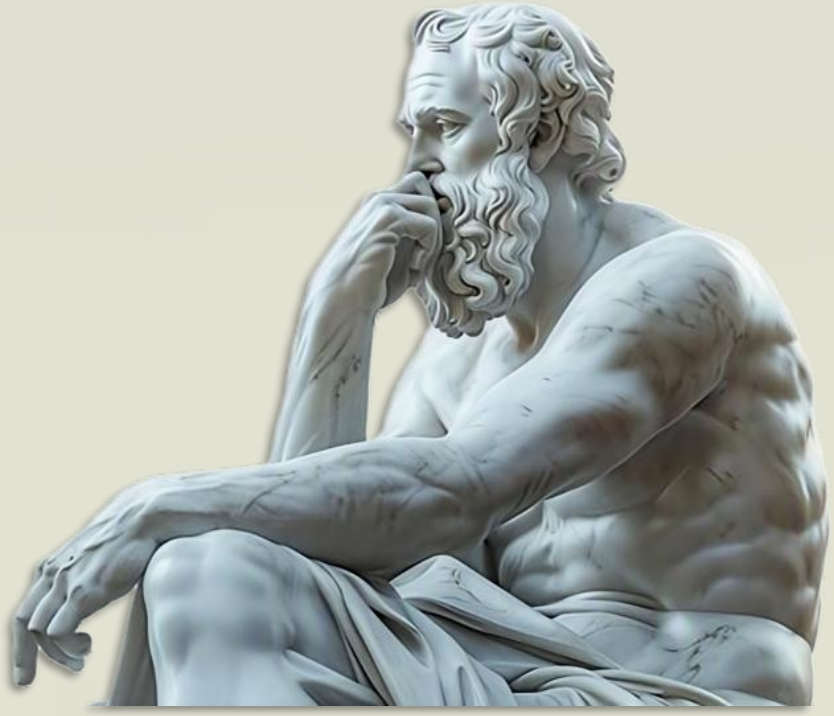


Morals only: Philosopher



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Ethics only: Politician





Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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Actions only: Hamster



Actions

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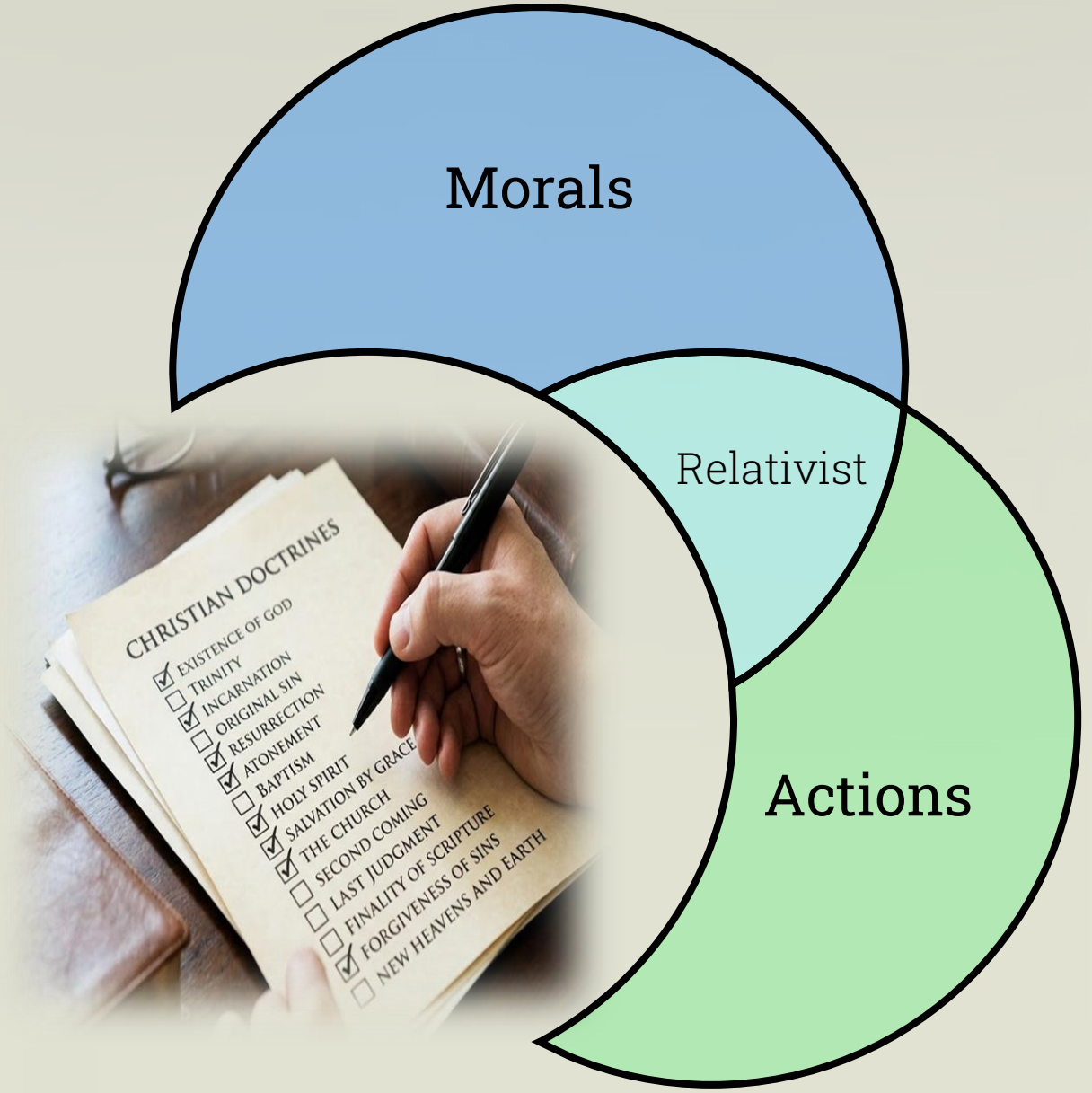
Morals + Actions: Relativist



Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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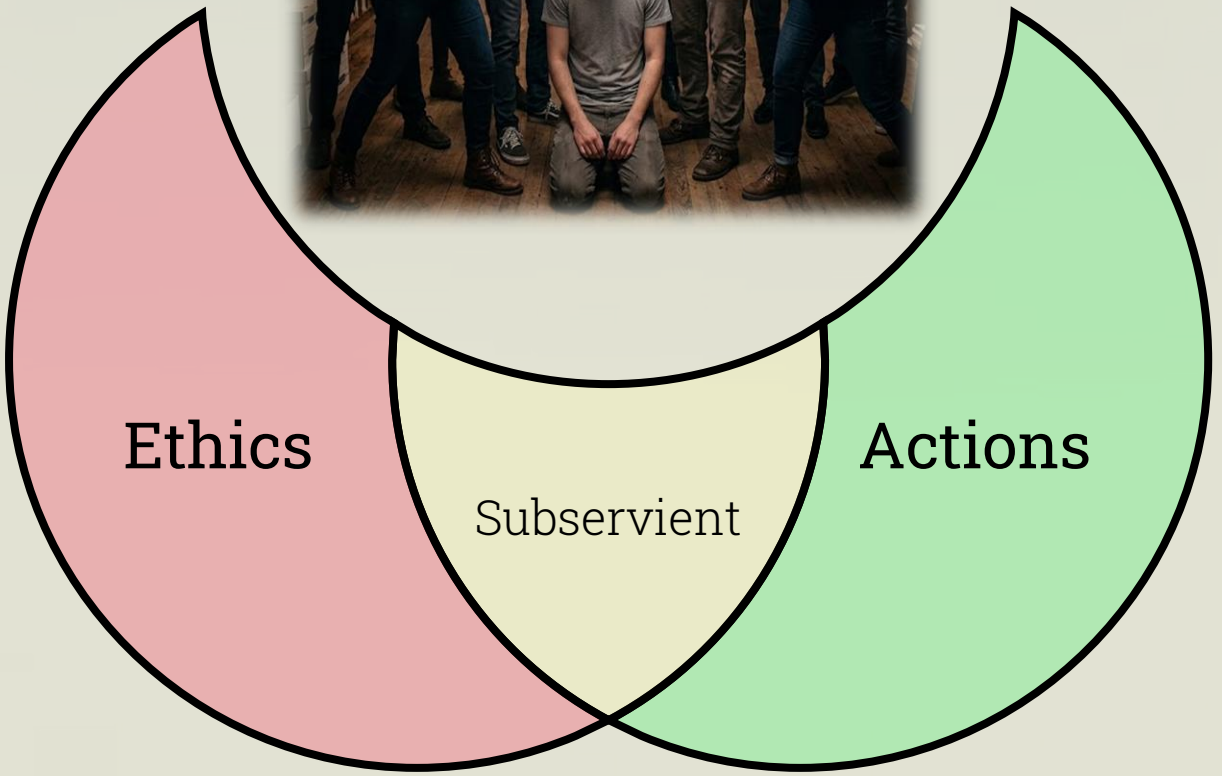
  Revelation 3:15-17, Luke 6:45

Ethics + Actions: Subservient





Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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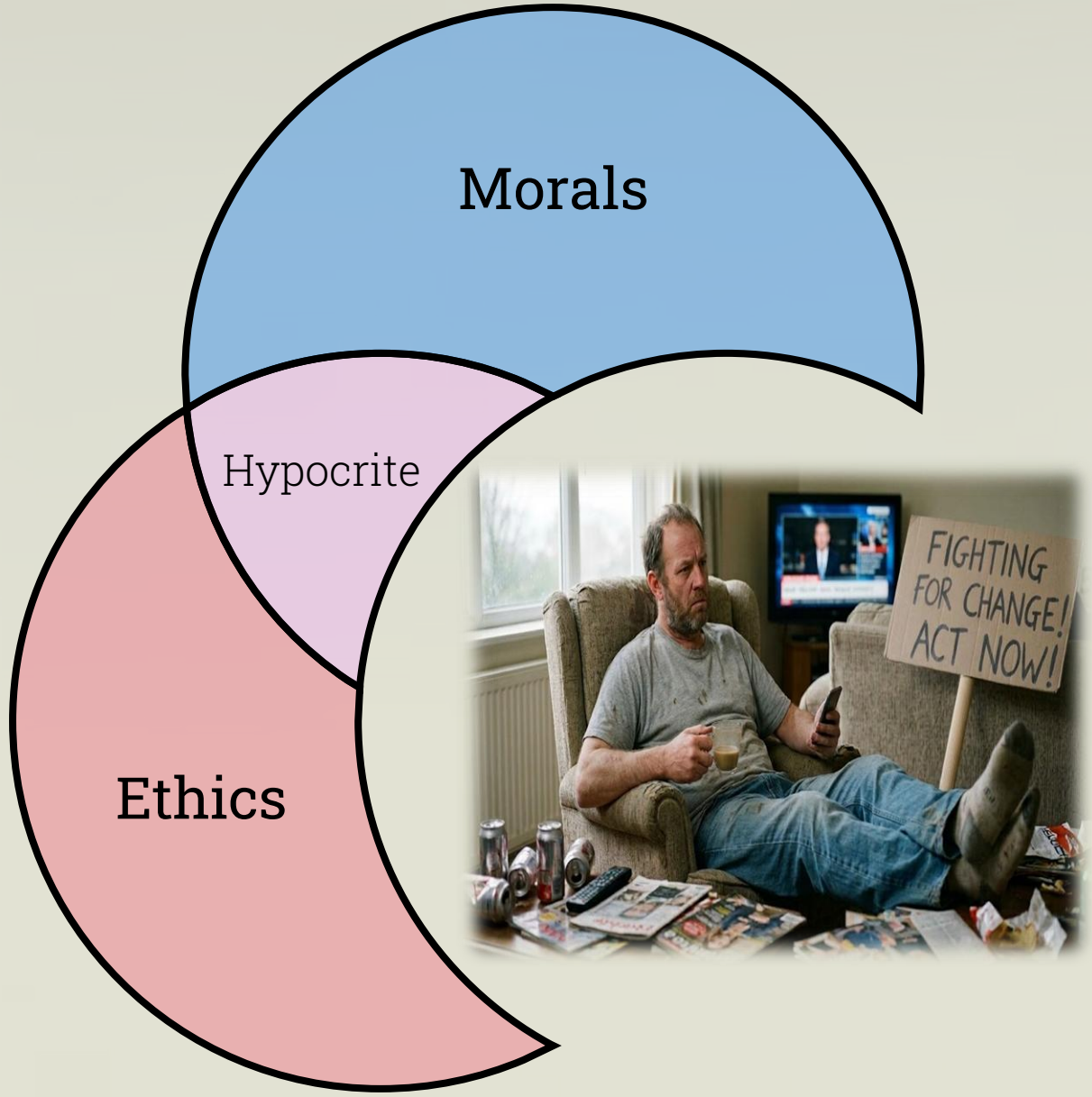
Morals + Ethics: Hypocrite



Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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  Matthew 5:16, Romans 6:17-19
  Revelation 3:15-17, Luke 6:45

James 1:22

ESV

22. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

James 2:26

ESV

26. For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

James 4:17

ESV

17. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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  Matthew 5:16, Romans 6:17-19
  Revelation 3:15-17, Luke 6:45

Matthew 5:16

ESV

16. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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  Matthew 5:16, Romans 6:17-19
  Revelation 3:15-17, Luke 6:45

Romans 6:17-19

ESV

17. But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,
18. and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.
19. I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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Revelation 3:15-17

ESV

15. I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!
16. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.
17. For you say, "I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing," not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

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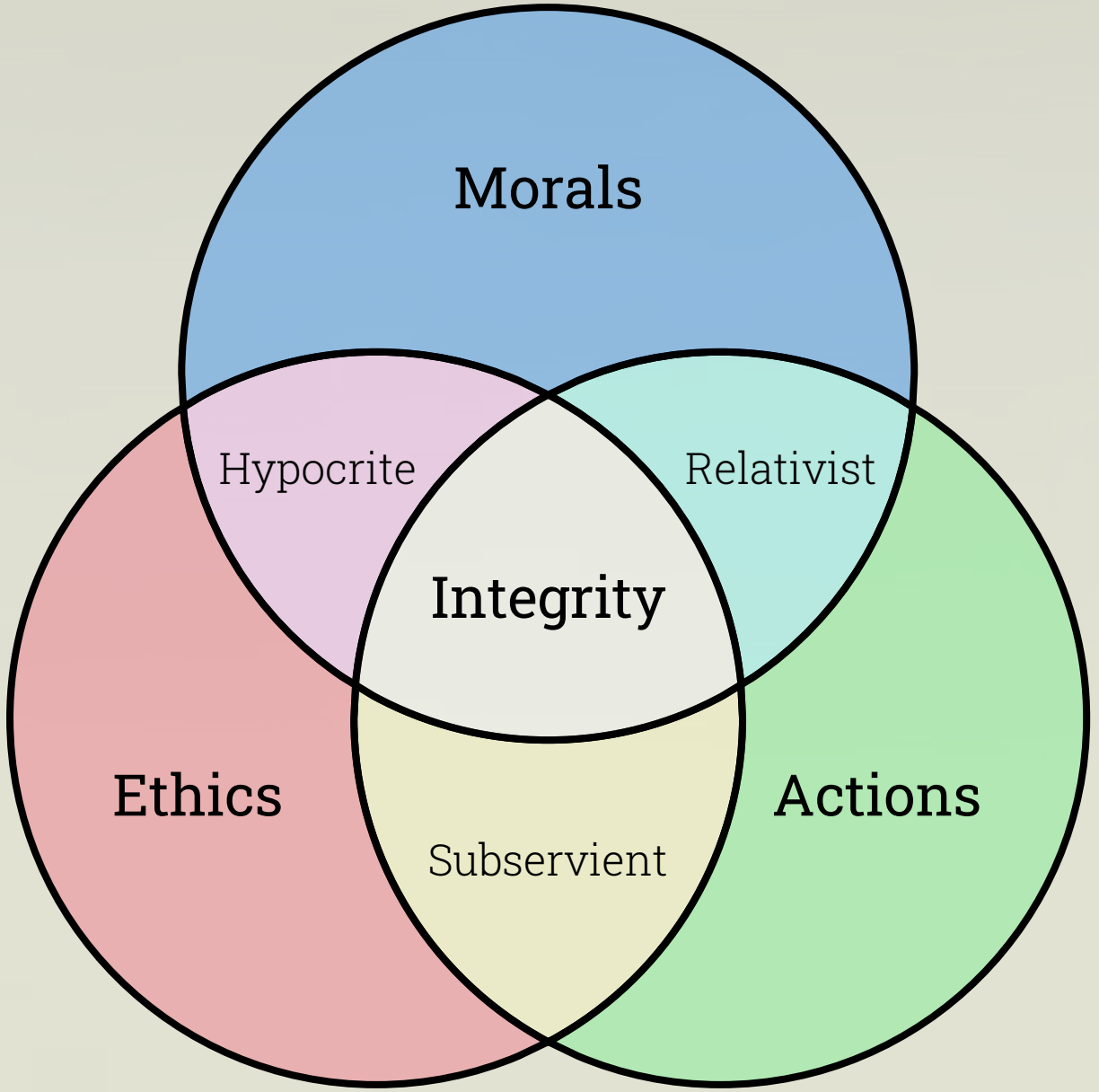

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  Matthew 5:16, Romans 6:17-19
  Revelation 3:15-17, Luke 6:45

Luke 6:45

ESV

45. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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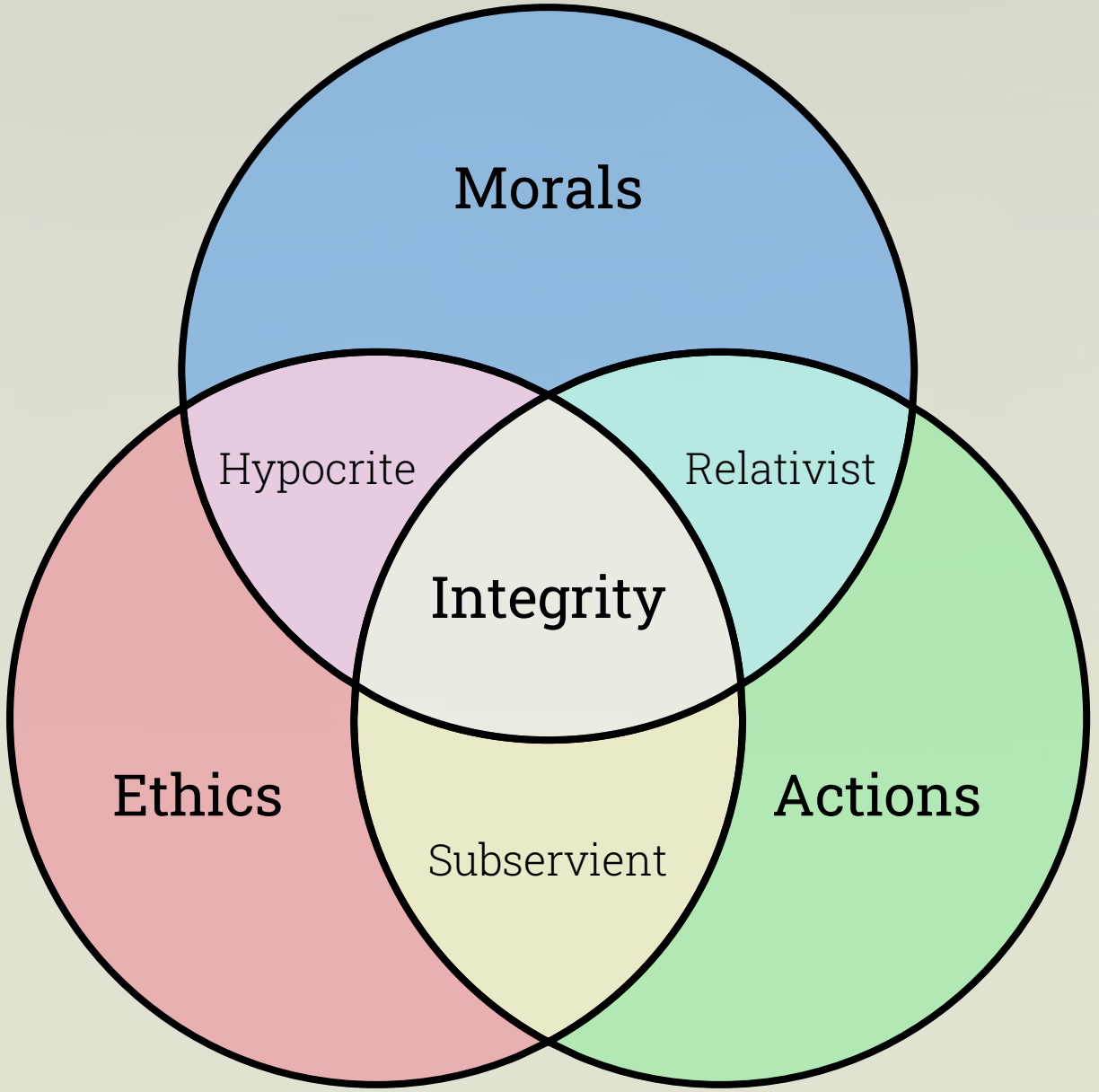

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Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8



Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

- **See Dimly**

  1 Corinthians 13:12

1 Corinthians 13:12

ESV

12. For now we see in a mirror
dimly, but then face to face.
Now I know in part; then I
shall know fully, even as I
have been fully known.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

- **See Dimly**

  1 Corinthians 13:12

- **Visions of God's Glory**

  Ezekiel 1:26-28, Daniel 7:9
  Revelation 1:12-16,
  Revelation 4:2-3

Ezekiel 1:26-28

ESV

26. And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance.
27. And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him.
28. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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  1 Corinthians 13:12

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  Ezekiel 1:26-28, Daniel 7:9
  Revelation 1:12-16,
  Revelation 4:2-3

Daniel 7:9

ESV

9. As I looked, thrones were placed,
and the Ancient of Days took his
seat; his clothing was white as
snow, and the hair of his head like
pure wool; his throne was fiery
flames; its wheels were burning
fire.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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  Ezekiel 1:26-28, Daniel 7:9
  Revelation 1:12-16,
  Revelation 4:2-3

Revelation 1:12-16

ESV

12. Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,
13. and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.
14. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,
15. his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters.
16. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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  1 Corinthians 13:12

- **Visions of God's Glory**

  Ezekiel 1:26-28, Daniel 7:9
  Revelation 1:12-16,
  Revelation 4:2-3

Revelation 4:2-3

ESV

2. At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.
3. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

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- **Visions of God's Glory**

  Ezekiel 1:26-28, Daniel 7:9
  Revelation 1:12-16,
  Revelation 4:2-3

- **Now and Not Yet**

  1 John 3:2-3, Psalm 19:1-2

1 John 3:2-3

ESV

2. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.
3. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Portrayal of the King(dom) – Part 8

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  Revelation 4:2-3

- **Now and Not Yet**

  1 John 3:2-3, Psalm 19:1-2

Psalm 19:1-2

ESV

1. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
2. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

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Portrayal of the King(dom)

