

MARKED

Blessed: sharing in the fullness of life
God originally intended.

“Blessedness,” however, is what happens when the creator God is at work both in someone’s life and through that person’s life. Likewise, blessedness is what happens when this same God is fulfilling the promises he made to his ancient people, the promises contained in the “covenant” as set out in the closing chapters of Deuteronomy. And both of those—the human blessing and the Israel blessing—are evoked by Jesus’s remarkable words in the opening of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3–11.

- NT Wright

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

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

Matthew 5:1-8 (ESV)

What does it mean to be pure in heart?

Purity of heart is to will one thing.

- Soren Kierkegaard

Purity of heart is to be
uncompromisingly devoted to Christ.

Purity of heart does not have double
allegiances.

Who is pure of heart? Only those who have surrendered their hearts completely to Jesus that he may reign in them alone. Only those whose hearts are undefiled by their own evil—and by their own virtues too.

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What does it mean to “see God?”

To see God is:

To know Him.

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

- John 14:5-11 (ESV)

“Seeing God” isn’t knowing about
God, it’s knowing God.

To see God is:

To know Him

To experience Him

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Hebrews 10:19-22 (ESV)



Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.

He will receive blessing from the Lord
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

- Psalm 24:3-6 (ESV)

Why must you be pure in heart to see God?

Impurity of heart is a distorted love.

Our brokenness keeps us from seeing and knowing God as he truly is.

No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

- 1 John 3:6 (ESV)

The Impure Heart



Compromise

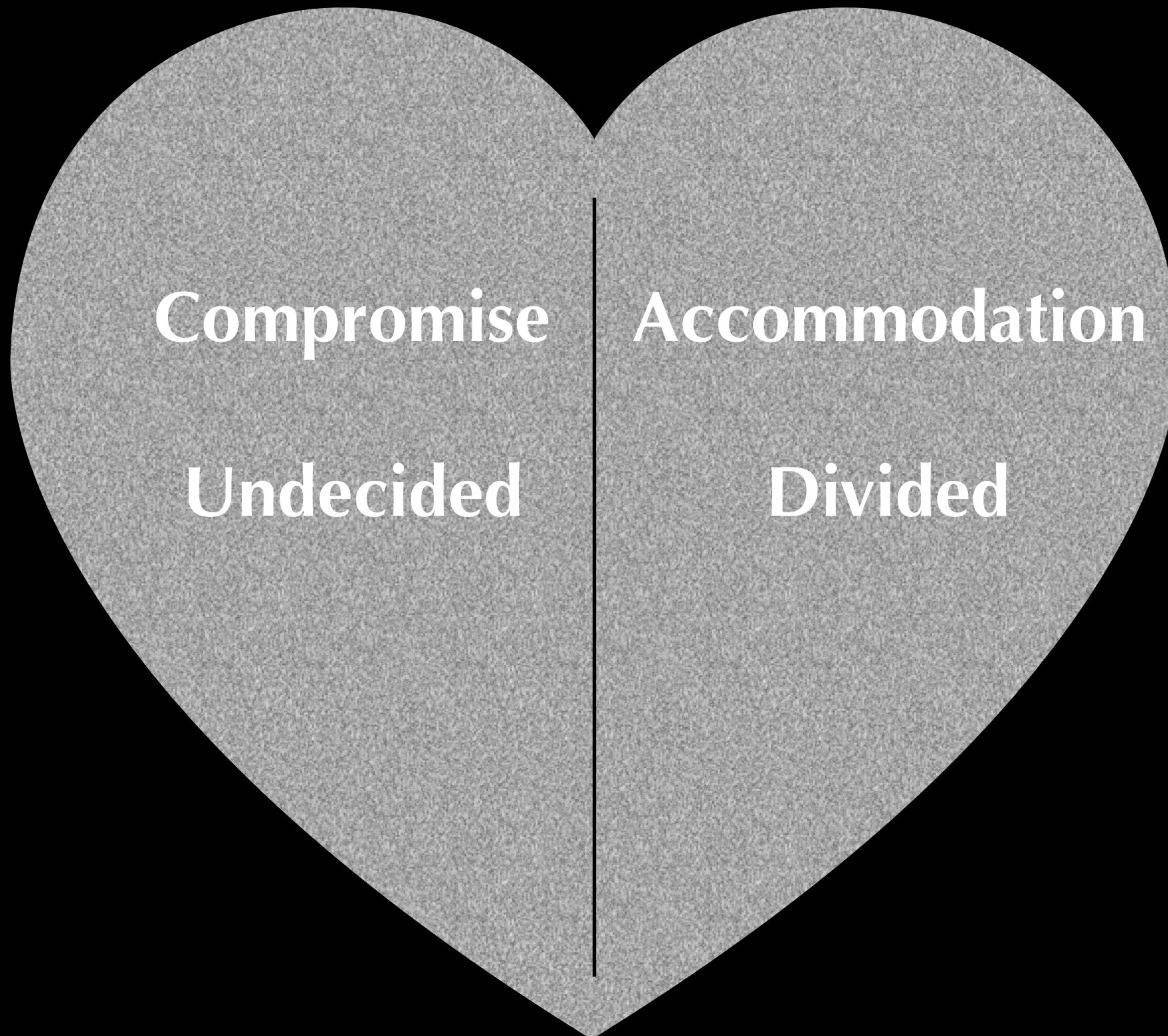
The Impure Heart



Compromise

Accommodation

The Impure Heart



Opposing purity of heart is lust of any kind
—for wealth, for recognition, for vengeance,
for sexual access to others—whether
indulged through action or imagination.

- Jim Forest

Purity of heart leads to clarity of sight.

*As the purity of your heart increases, so will
your knowing of God.*

Jesus doesn't say, "purify your own heart and then you will see God."

Jesus says to you today, "Follow me, and purity of heart will begin to happen. As you follow me, you will find your purity resides in me, and you will see God."

Purity of heart is less about what you do and more about who you become.

Embrace Jesus.

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you discern where your double allegiance resides within your heart.

Admit your brokenness in this area.

Pray: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Receive the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus.

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