



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*May 13, 2018*

### **Purify Them in Truth!**

Bible Reference: John 17:11-19

I was part of a generation of Kool-aid drinkers as a kid, and really struggled to drink plain water. The worst was when our family went to Florida. I was in this beautiful, amazing place, but the water was horrible! It was so bad I wouldn't drink anything, and then I would pass out from dehydration. It was the craziest thing. These days, you would be hard pressed to see me without my cup of water. But it's not just any water; I like purified water with a special kind of ice. Last week I had a meeting with a wedding couple and they surprised me with my favorite brand of purified water—Fiji. I usually only drink this amazing water on Sundays when I am preaching, but this week I have been spoiled.

Some say to me that bottled water is expensive, or that it's the biggest lie in the world—to bottle water and sell it. But if you go back and ask the 10-year-old Will why he didn't drink water he would tell you it was because it tasted bad. My taste buds can be very picky, especially about water, so I love bottled water.

These days you will never find me passed out from dehydration. It is quite the opposite, actually, thanks to voices like Dr. Nick. Most days you might wonder if I am too hydrated as much as I am in the restroom. The secret that changed me from a non-water drinker to a camel was simple—purification. I could taste the sin in our water from early on, but after it was purified it was delicious. Ok, I know there are flaws in that analogy, relating non-purified water to our sinful selves. Only Jesus can truly purify us from sin and make us truly clean, like companies do with bottled water, but you get what I mean. (Oh... there could be a good brand name for a bottled water company—Living Water.)

Being serious though, sanctification—the process of Jesus making us holy through the work of the Holy Spirit—is really hard to understand. We can't see it, and we still face sin every day, so the process is never done, not until eternity. Yet when Jesus was alive, He prayed for us to be purified in truth. I think where my analogy to water connects is that we often just suffer through bad tasting water thinking that is all there is, just as we suffer through a world lacking truth thinking it will never get better. We get used to being deceived & even expect it. Jesus was not satisfied with this type of life for us, so He prayed that we would be purified, or sanctified, in truth.

This weekend we take time to talk about this “truth-less” world. We ask the question, “How can we be active in praying for and participating in truth?” Jesus wants you to be purified in the truth, and His Word is truth, not whatever the world wants to represent as truth. Let’s take time to pray for truth in us and in those around us.

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*