
There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him. (Mark 7:15)

I. In Search of Purity in Society

- a. What is biblical purity? In the O.T. the word for purity means to empty out or being clean. The emphasis is primarily on ritual purity. In the N.T. purity is best demonstrated in character.
- b. Society has encouraged us to believe that purity is something that you have when you are young, but you lose it when you mess up.
- c. Purity is not something you lose, but something that you gain as you grow in the Christian life.
- d. Purity is not easily defined in our culture, because we have competing morals and ethics.
 1. Morals – a code of conduct that describes what is wrong or right. (gangs, police, NFL, Navy)
 2. Ethics – a foundational value that determines right and wrong.
- e. The ethic determines the morality. Who taught you morality and ethics?
- f. Is right and wrong the same wherever you go? Who teaches right and wrong?

II. Create in Me a Clean Heart

- a. There is a common saying, *cleanliness is next to godliness*. This saying does not mean that having clean hands will bring you closer to God, but having a clean heart.
- b. David prayed, *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.* (Psalm 51:10) David acknowledged there was nothing *in* him that could produce a clean heart.
- c. The human heart is sinful and produces all manner of evil desires, thoughts and actions.
- d. Jesus knew that man is unable to control or change his own nature.
- e. *That enters* is a reference to food. According to Jesus, food, in the spiritual sense is harmless because it is external to us. Food does not impact character.
- f. *What comes out* relates to all the ways in which a person reveals their character, outlook and perspective on life (relating to *the heart*).
- g. The implication is that only *people* can be unclean, not things. Therefore, people are not made unclean by things, but by the thoughts and actions devised in their own heart.
- h. Remember we are to have dominion over things...things are not to have dominion over us.
- i. The Pharisees watched what goes into the body. Jesus watches what comes out of the heart.

III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action

- a. In our households and among our families, Jesus expects us to be the moral compass and set the ethical standard.
- b. We should not expect society to raise and instruct our families. The Church is now experiencing the same cultural issues found in society. (Pastors, Youth Pastors, Administrators)
- c. Moral weakness often times leads to moral failure.
- d. All churches under the headship of Christ need men with strong moral character to help other men understand their biblical moral responsibility. Let's pursue purity.