

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Matthew 15:11

Lesson #65

Defilement

11/25/2018

URGENT ALERT!

1 Peter 5:8

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."



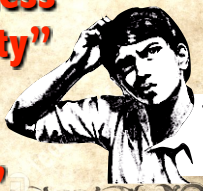
Messengers of Satan (Demons) are everywhere seeking to entrap the unwearied and unwarned. **Defilement, Oppression, & Possession are real.**

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Point #1

Defilement is a major issue in both the old and new testaments.

"holiness" "worldliness"
"purity" "depravity"
"renewed mind"
"sanctification"
"new man" "idolatry"



Defilement

"to be made unholy"

"to be ethically or ritually unclean"



Under the Mosaic Law it was taught that **"PHYSICAL CONTACT"** with certain foods, people, places, experiences, etc. was defiling.

3

Some sources of defilement in the Old Testament:

Defilement through contact with anything unclean

Lev 20:25 (Clean and unclean animals) See also Lev 7:19-21; Lev 11:41-45; Lev 21:1-4; Lev 22:4-5; Nu 5:1-3; Nu 6:9,12; Eze 4:9-15; Eze 44:25; Da 1:8; Hag 2:10-14; Mal 1:7

Defilement through bodily emissions

Lev 12:2-7 (After the birth of a male or female child); Lev 15:1-17

Defilement by idolatry

Eze 14:11 See also Lev 19:28, 31 (turning to a medium); Ps 106:34-39; Jer 2:23; La 4:14; Eze 20:1-44; Eze 22:1-4; Eze 23:28-30; Eze 37:23

Defilement of God's name

Eze 20:39; 39:7; 43:7-8 Through idolatry

Defilement as a result of illicit sexual relations

Lev 18:20 See also Ge 34:1-5 rape; Ge 34:27; Ge 49:3-4; Lev 18:23-30 bestiality, Prostitution; Lev 21:7,9,13-15 Nu 5:19-22,27-30; Dt 24:1-4; 1Ch 5:1; Eze 18:6; Eze 22:11 incest; Eze 23:7,17; Eze 33:26 adultery; Rev 14:4

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Defilement of God's house

Lev 15:31 Through uncleanness; Nu 19:13,20 2Ch 29:4-5; 2Ch 36:14; Ps 74:4-7; Ps 79:1 Through setting up idols: Jer 7:30; Jer 32:32-35 Eze 5:11; Eze 9:7; Eze 23:38; Ac 21:27-28 Paul was falsely accused of bringing Gentiles into the temple area.

Defilement of altars and offerings

Ex 20:25 See also Nu 18:30-32; 2Ki 23:16,19

Defilement of the land

Nu 35:34 (breaking civil laws) See also Jos 22:19; Isa 24:5; Jer 2:7; Jer 3:9; Jer 16:18; Eze 36:17-18

- Defilement was largely from **outward, physical**, contact with "unclean" objects.
- Defilement was an issue of **covenant identity** for Israel as God's "holy" (set apart) people.

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DEFILEMENT DOORWAYS

According to
some Christians



- Yoga
- Karate
- Bondage
- Addiction
- Rebellion
- Fortune telling
- Lust / perversion
- Unresolved guilt
- Anger / Bitterness
- Contact with the dead
- Contact with Satanic objects
- Contact with "dark" literature

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AVOIDING DEFILEMENT

According to
some Christians



- **FEAR**
 - **ASCETICISM**
 - **MONASTICISM**
 - **DEMON WATCH**
- "When in doubt, cast it out"*

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Point #2

Asceticism may not be a deterrent to defilement in that **the issue is with the heart not physical contact.**



8

Jesus moves the emphasis from outward to **inward (heart) issues.**

Matthew 15

"¹¹ Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man. . . . ¹⁸ But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. ²⁰ These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

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Jesus' example

He initiated contact with the "unclean".

- **Adulterous woman**
- **Leprous man**
- **Tax collectors**
- **Sinning Jews**
- **Gentiles**

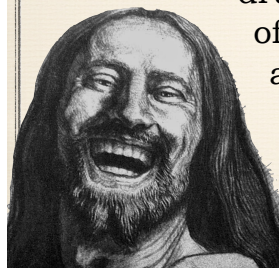
Luke 15

"¹ Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. ² And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, **"This man receives sinners and eats with them."**

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Luke 7

"³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon!' ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a gluttonous man, and a drunkard, a friend of tax-gatherers and sinners!'"



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Should Christians live
in **fear of defilement** through
contact with physical objects?

“meat offered to idols”

In 1 & 2 Corinthians Paul teaches that physical contact (eating) something sacrificed (sanctified) in demonic worship should certainly be avoided as defiling.

BUT ONLY WHEN AND IF
it causes someone else
to be led astray.



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Should Christians live
in **fear of defilement** through
contact with physical things?

“meat offered to idols”

- The problem was not the “meat”.
- The problem was not that it was “offered to idols”.
- **The problem was that it was in the hands of a defiled, (unregenerate, un-renewed, unrefined, un-loving, graceless) heart.**



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The **Apostles reiterate** Jesus' emphasis.

Romans 14

“²⁰ Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. ²² The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. ²³ **But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.**”

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1 Corinthians 10

“²⁷ If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, **eat anything that is set before you**, without asking questions for conscience' sake. ²⁸ **But if** anyone should say to you, “This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake; ²⁹ I mean not your own conscience, but the other man's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?”

The disciple of Christ is free from the laws of defilement **but not from love.**

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Asceticism

Hedonism

1 Timothy 6

“¹⁷ Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, **who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.**

¹⁸ Instruct them to do good, to **be rich in good works**, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.”



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Point #3

Outward asceticism
can be defiling when
it is rooted in a self-
serving heart.



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1 Corinthians 10:23

"All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable."

Colossians 2

"¹⁶ Therefore **let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day** – ¹⁷ things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,"

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2 Peter 2

"¹⁷ These (**unrighteous**) are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. . . . ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the **defilements** of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first."

- **Defilement is detachment from the Gospel of the grace of God in Christ.**
- **Defilement is attachment to the world's hopes and values.**

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Conclusion

1. Take spiritual defilement **seriously**.
2. Live a life **free from fear** of defilement through physical contacts.
3. Take seriously the **condition of your inner life** including a tendency to walk in fear and place others in fear that is unwarranted.

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2 Timothy 3

"¹ But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; ⁵ **holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power**; and avoid such men as these. ⁶ For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ And just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of **depraved mind**, rejected as regards the faith."

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