

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Proverbs 4:23-27

Lesson #66

Avoiding Defilement

12/02/2018

## Defilement

### Point #1

**Defilement** is a major issue in both the Old and New Testaments.

### Point #2

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

### Point #3

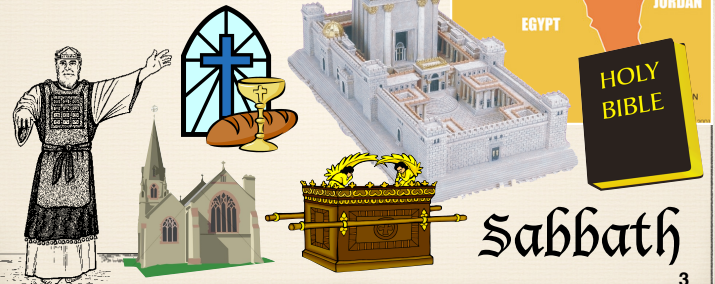
**Outward asceticism** can be defiling when it comes from an insensitive heart.



Point #4  
Avoiding defilement calls for **diligence in three key areas of the heart.**



Defilement starts with identifying -  
**What is holy?**



- The new temple of God is the Body of Christ (believers).

*1 Corinthians 3*

“<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that **you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** <sup>17</sup> If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

**Defilement became an issue of one's inner spiritual condition rather than outward physical contact.**

## A Defilement Defense

1. Know Satan's **agenda** - Matt.4:1-11.  
(Distortion of priorities / values / timing)
  2. Put on your **armor** - Eph.6:10-20.
  3. Resist areas of **vulnerability** - Heb.12:1-3
- **Fanciful** view of reality.
  - **Fearful** posture in life.
  - **Feeling** based theology.

## 1. Defilement has a lot to do with a **fanciful views of reality.**

Mark 8

“31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, and said, **“Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”**”

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Matthew 6

“22 The lamp of the body is the eye; if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But **if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.** If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

**Our experiences** are explained by what we have been taught.

1 Corinthians 8:4

“Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, **we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world**, and that there is no God but one.”

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## **Some fanciful perceptions:**

1. Almost every problem has a demonic root in terms of a **“spirit of ....”**.
2. Fighting spiritual (demonic) defilement, control, and obsession should be a **major concern** in the normal Christian life.
3. Demonic defilement normally takes place through **physical contact** with objects.
4. Spiritual defilement renders a Christian **blocked** until the “evil spirit” is **exorcised**.

**These perceptions are often rooted in subjective “experiences” more than scripture. BE A BEREAN!**

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Example: *Proverbs 4*

“23 Watch over your **heart** with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

- **Heart** - (perspective, priorities, passions)

24 Put away from you a deceitful **mouth** and put devious speech far from you. 25 Let your **eyes** look directly ahead and let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you. 26 Watch the path of your **feet** and all your ways will be established. 27 Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil.”

### **Defilement Portals**

- **Mouth** - speak truth in love (Jn.8:44)
- **Eyes** - avoid distractions (Matt.4:1-11)
- **Feet** - discipline your behavior (Ps.1)

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Example: *Romans 12*

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

### **Defilement is:**

- a departure from **God’s grace** issue.
- a failure to **sacrifice yourself** issue.
- an attachment to **worldly hopes and values** issue.
- a mind’s **perceptions** issue.

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Example: *Titus 1*

<sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. For this cause reprove them severely that they may be **sound in the faith**, <sup>14</sup> not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. <sup>15</sup> To the pure, all things are pure; but **to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.** <sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.”

- Defilement is rooted in **“myths”, “human rules”,** and an **“unreliable conscience”**.
- Those who are defiled often **“profess to know God”** but are not **“sound in the faith”**.

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## 2. Defilement has a lot to do with a **fearful posture in life.**

*1 John 4:18*

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. **The one who fears has not been perfected in love.**”

***Pneumatiphobia - fear of evil spirits***

*James 4*

<sup>4</sup> You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? . . . <sup>7</sup> Submit therefore to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you.** <sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded.”

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A spirit of “FEAR”  
is not a demon  
**but may be the doorway  
for demonic defilement.**

*Romans 8*

<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, **nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,** <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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## 3. Defilement has a lot to do with a **feeling based theology.**

*Colossians 2*

<sup>16</sup> 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 — <sup>17</sup> things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> **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,** <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.”

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## **Conclusion**

1. Avoiding defilement starts with a **“renewed mind”** that sees life in a way that differs from paganism.
2. As Christians we must **deal with “fear”** if we wish to avoid defilement.
3. **Repentance rather than exorcism** is **“most often”** needed in spiritual war.
4. Our **feelings & impressions** are important motivators but are not to shape or dictate our theology.

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*Philippians 4*

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. <sup>9</sup> The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.”

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