

John 17:15

“I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.”

How are we to be in the world and not defiled by it?

Three types of parents

- 1. Body guards** - keep children from going near the water.
- 2. Life guards** - rescue children as soon as they get into the water.
- 3. Swimming instructors** - get in the water with children and teach them to swim.

WHAT WILL DEFILE US?

- 1. Educational affiliation?**
- 2. TV or not TV?**
- 3. Social / political affiliation?**
- 4. Denominational affiliation?**
- 5. Material life style?**
- 6. Alcohol or Teetotaler?**
- 7. Contact with anything demonic?**

1 Corinthians 10

“20 No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, **they sacrifice to demons**, and not to God;

23 All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. 24 Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor. 25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience' sake; 26 *for the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains.* 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?”

Mark 7

“ 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” 6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, *‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.* 7 *But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’* 8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.””

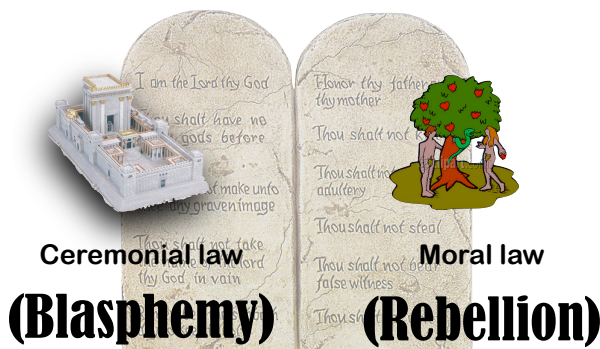
“14 And after He called the multitude to Him again, He began saying to them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. 16 If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.” 17 And when leaving the multitude, He had entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable.”

“18 And He said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; 19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.) 20 And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.””

JEWISH HOLINESS

The heart of holiness is separation and defilement through improper physical / outward contact with the Gentile world and all other things designated as unclean.

Jewish defilement was outward focused



Observations

1. Defilement is a real possibility.
2. Defilement can come in spirit of religious zeal or good intentions.
3. Defilement is the fruit of a heart that is detached from God's heart.

Common misplaced fears in the Christian's life.

- ✓ **Contact with the material world is defiling.** (especially through contact with any item that is associated with witchcraft)
- ✓ **Worldliness is primarily a way of behaving.** (taboo behaviors vary from culture to culture)

What is spiritual defilement?

The pollution of a testimony from the inside out.

Titus 1:15

“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.”

Hebrews 12:15

“See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.”

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you, 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.”

Being IN but not OF the world involves:

- 1. sacrifice (in relation to self)**
- 2. service (in relation to God)**
- 3. separation (in relation to the world)**

How does defilement (shipwreck) take place?

1. Emptiness:

Incomplete commitment to Christ.

2. Enticement:

Failure to resist the temptation of worldly values.

3. Expression:

Living out of a prideful, polluted heart.

1 John 2

“¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father but is from the world”

- ✓ “lust of the flesh” - **natural passions (Me)**
- ✓ “lust of the eye” - **material perspective (Stuff)**
- ✓ “pride of life” - **temporal focus (Now)**

Matthew 6

“¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- ✓ “where moth and rust destroy”
If it can be destroyed,
- ✓ “where thieves break in and steal”
or if it can be stolen

don't get too attached to it!

Matthew 6

“¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

- ✓ “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”
Invest in the Kingdom
don't just rest in the kingdom.
- ✓ “where your treasure is, there will your heart be”
Your heart's passion follows your level of investment.

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!”

- ✓ “The lamp of the body is the eye”
The way we see things shapes how we will act and what we will experience.

Matthew 6

“24 No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. 25 For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?”

- ✓ “You cannot serve God and mammon”
Mixed commitments leads to defilement.
- ✓ “Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?”
Life consists of more than what this world can give and can take away.

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Worldliness and defilement come
not from being in the world
but from a heart that has
lost contact with Christ.**

Lessons for us today

- 1. The mark of true spirituality is not zeal or sincerity but the sharing of God's heart.**
- 2. Guard your heart for from it come the issues of life (both worldliness and godliness).**
- 3. Idolatrous behavior always comes from an inner misplaced faith, hope, and love.**
- 4. Don't fear defilement from outer contact but know where your heart is vulnerable and guard it with passion.**