

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The cross is on the left side of the image. The text "Senior Bible Study Ministry" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>



What Defiles a Person?

Matthew 15 (NIV)

1 Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, 2 “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” 3 He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’

Matthew 15 (NIV)

5 But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," 6 he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. 7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 15 (NIV)

10 And he called the people to him and said to them, "Hear and understand: 11 it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person." 12 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" 13 He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.

Matthew 15 (NIV)

14 Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” 15 But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.” 16 And he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? 18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

Matthew 15 (NIV)

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

20 These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

Religionists

www.emmasaying.com

Religionists

- A religionist is someone who adheres strictly to the rituals, traditions & external practices of their religion without genuine faith or personal relationship with God
- Jesus confronts the Pharisees & scribes who were focused on external rituals & traditions rather than true worship of God.
- He quotes Isaiah 29:13, saying, *"These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."*

Religionists

- Being a religionist involves placing undue emphasis on outward expressions of religion while neglecting the inward transformation of the heart
 - Attending religious services
 - Observing rituals
 - Following traditions
- Religionists often prioritize adherence to rules & regulations over the grace and mercy of God

Religionists

- They seek to earn favor with God through their own efforts rather than relying on the finished work of Christ for salvation
- In Galatians 3:1-14, Paul addresses the danger of legalism and works-based righteousness.
- He contrasts the law, which cannot save, with faith in Christ, which brings justification

Religionists

- Religionists may display outward piety & religious zeal to impress others, but their hearts are not truly devoted to God
- They may engage in religious practices for show or to maintain their social standing, rather than out of genuine love for God
- In Matthew 23, Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for their hypocrisy, calling them "whitewashed tombs" that appear outwardly righteous but are full of hypocrisy & wickedness

Religionists

- Religionists may engage in religious activities out of tradition or obligation, but they lack a personal relationship with God
- They may know about God intellectually but do not experience His transforming power in their lives
- In John 5:39-40, Jesus tells the religious leaders that they diligently study the Scriptures but fail to come to Him for life

Religionists

- He emphasizes the importance of knowing & believing in Him for salvation.
- Religionists may develop a sense of superiority over those who do not adhere to their religious standards
- They may look down on others who they perceive as less religious or morally upright, failing to recognize their own need for grace & forgiveness

Religionists

- In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee & the tax collector, highlighting the danger of self-righteousness & judgmental attitudes
- The Pharisee looks down on others while exalting himself
- As Christians, we are called to move beyond religionism & cultivate a deep, authentic relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ

defilement

Defilement

- Defilement, in a biblical context, refers to the state of being ritually impure or morally contaminated
- It often results from actions or conditions that violate God's standards of holiness & purity
- In the Old Testament, defilement often pertained to ritual impurity associated with specific actions or conditions that rendered individuals or objects ceremonially unclean

Defilement

- Leviticus 11-15 outlines various laws regarding ritual purity, including regulations concerning dietary restrictions, skin diseases, bodily discharges & contact with dead bodies
- For example, touching a dead body or contact with certain bodily fluids would result in ritual defilement (Leviticus 22:4-6 & Numbers 19:11-22)

Defilement

- The Bible also addresses moral defilement, which involves actions or attitudes that violate God's moral laws & standards
- Jesus criticized the Pharisees for their outward show of righteousness while harboring inward moral defilement, such as hypocrisy, greed & wickedness (Matthew 15:1-20)
- Matthew 15:18-20 enumerates various sins that defile a person's heart & character, including lying, adultery, murder & deceit

Defilement

- The Bible also speaks of spiritual defilement, which involves contamination of the soul & spirit due to sin & rebellion against God
- Isaiah 64:6 describes our righteous deeds as filthy rags before God, highlighting the inherent spiritual defilement of humanity apart from His grace & redemption
- Ephesians 4:17-24 exhorts believers to put off their former way of life characterized by spiritual defilement & to be renewed in the spirit of their minds through Christ

Defilement

- The consequences of defilement in Scripture include
 - Exclusion from the community
 - Separation from God's presence
 - Need for purification & atonement
- Leviticus 15:31 emphasizes the importance of purification rituals for those who have become ritually defiled, highlighting the seriousness of maintaining holiness in God's sight

Defilement

- In 1 John 1, John emphasize the need for confession & repentance to cleanse the soul from spiritual defilement & restore fellowship with God

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 NIV)

- In Hebrews 9, Paul offers hope & provision for cleansing from defilement through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ

Defilement

*13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,[a] so that we may serve the living God!
(Hebrews 9:13-14 NIV)*

Defilement

- 1 Corinthians 6:11 Paul declares that believers have been washed, sanctified & justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ & by the Spirit of our God, demonstrating the transformative power of salvation to purify & sanctify believers from all defilement

Defilement

- The Bible underscores the
 - Seriousness of defilement
 - Its consequences
 - The need for purification & atonement
- Jesus is the ultimate solution for cleansing & restoration from all forms of defilement



DESIRES

- OF THE -

HEART

DAVESTONE.TV

Desires of the Heart

- The desires of the unregenerated heart refer to the sinful inclinations & passions that dominate the lives of those who have not experienced spiritual rebirth or regeneration through faith in Jesus Christ
- These desires are rooted in the fallen nature of humanity & are contrary to God's will & standards as revealed in Scripture

Desires of the Heart

- Without regeneration, the heart is characterized by deceit, wickedness & rebellion against God

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.

Who can understand it? (Jeremiah 17:9 NIV)

- This verse highlights the corrupt nature of the human heart apart from God's transforming grace

Desires of the Heart

- Sinful desires lead people to pursue self-gratification, worldly pleasures & selfish ambitions
- Often at the expense of righteousness & obedience to God's commands

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh[a] and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. (Ephesians 2:3 NIV)

Desires of the Heart

- Sinful desires originate from within the human heart and are fueled by temptation, leading to sinful actions and separation from God.

14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:14-15 NIV)

Desires of the Heart

- Unregenerate desires lead to spiritual death & separation from God, resulting in eternal condemnation apart from His saving grace

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 NIV)

Desires of the Heart

- Spiritual regeneration, or the new birth, is essential for transforming the desires of the unregenerated heart
- Through faith in Christ, believers are made new creatures (2 Corinthians 5:17) & empowered by the Holy Spirit to live according to God's will and purposes

"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." (John 3:3 NIV)

Desires of the Heart

- In regeneration, God replaces the heart of stone, hardened by sin, with a heart of flesh, responsive to His Spirit & guided by His truth

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
(Ezekiel 36:26-27 NIV)*

Desires of the Heart

- Understanding the desires of the unregenerated heart underscores the necessity of spiritual rebirth through faith in Jesus Christ
- Only through regeneration can sinful desires be overcome & replaced with a new nature empowered to live in righteousness & holiness according to God's will

(Ephesians 4:22-24)

Desires of the Heart

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

(Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV)

Main Idea

Defilement of a person comes not from external rituals or traditions, but from the desires of the heart, exposing the danger of religionism and the importance of genuine devotion to God.

Question

Has your heart been transformed by surrender of your life to the Lordship of Jesus?

A scenic view of a beach with waves, a white cross, and birds in the sky. The cross is on the left side of the image. The text "Senior Bible Study Ministry" is centered in the upper half of the image.

Senior Bible Study Ministry

<https://www.seniorbiblestudies.org/>