

# **Empty Worship—Confusing the Commandments of Man with the Doctrine of God, Part 2**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 15:10-20.

B. Biblical pollution is personal defilement.

C. God speaks about the issue of personal pollution throughout the Bible. (Psalm 119:1, James 1:27, I Corinthians 8:7, Hebrews 12:15, I Corinthians 3:16-17, Revelation 3:4, 14:4, Daniel 1:8)

D. We must know what it is that pollutes, so we can deal with it.

## II. The principle stated.

A. That which comes out of a man pollutes him. Defilement is an inside matter and not an outside matter.

B. Pollution is an inner moral issue. (I Samuel 16:7, Mark 7:15)

C. The Jewish leaders focused on external issues, while Jesus focused on the internal state of a person.

D. The ceremonial system is a picture of what God wanted believers to be on the inside. (Hebrews 8:5, 9:9-10, 10:1, 10:22, 6:1-2, 6:12-6:8, Matthew 5:17, Mark 7:19)

E. The ceremonial system has been abolished. (Acts 10, I Timothy 4)

## III. The principle violated.

A. The Pharisees was called hypocrites for ignoring matters of the heart in favor of external righteousness. (Matthew 23)

B. Hypocrites are offended by the truth. (Luke 11:37)

C. God's message to the hypocrite is judgment.

D. Application.

1. Stay away from judgment.

2. Do not act as a judge.

3. Stay away from hypocrites because they lead people to hell. (Matthew 23)

IV. The principle annunciated.

A. We are polluted by what we put out—the heart is the source of evil.

B. The heart gives birth to the evil on the outside.

C. We need a pure heart. (Titus 1:13, Matthew 5:8)

D. A pure heart comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

**Application questions:**

1. Since Jesus focused on internal state, was He less concerned about a person's actions? Explain.

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2. How do the Old Testament laws concerning clean and unclean things function in light of New Testament truth?

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3. How are we to respond to hypocrites? How does this work out when there is a little hypocrisy in all of us? Explain.

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