

A CLEAN PEOPLE HONORS JEHOVAH

Note to the speaker:

We honor Jehovah by physical cleanness, exemplary dress and grooming. We cannot be clean in Jehovah's eyes if we associate with people who are morally and spiritually unclean

PHYSICAL CLEANNESNESS IS ASSOCIATED WITH SPIRITUAL ACCEPTABLENESS (7 min.)

Jehovah is a holy God (*it-1* 1127 ¶17)

He is profaned by uncleanness, physical or spiritual (Isa 1:16)

Israelites had to wash themselves and their clothing for awesome assembly at Mount Sinai (Ex 19:10, 11)

Aaron and his sons had to wash with water from large copper basin before serving in the tent of meeting (Ex 29:4; 30:18, 19)

Cleanness in the Israelite camp was required by the holy God (De 23:10-14; *g81* 5/8 14; *g71* 4/22 28)

Thoughtlessness regarding the honor due Jehovah was not tolerated

The cleanness required under the Law was a basis for happiness

God's people did not have to view his requirements about cleanness as difficult, burdensome, or oppressive

By all making a reasonable effort, the people would be able to live in a more pleasant environment

Could take satisfaction in being a healthier people, less at risk of epidemics or frequent illnesses

God's providing such guidance could help them to see that he cared about them and they were special to him (De 33:29; Ps 33:12-14; Isa 48:17)

OUR WHOLE MANNER OF LIFE SHOULD HONOR JEHOVAH (8 min.)

Just as the Israelite encampment represented their entire way of life, so must our way of life be kept clean, in order that Jehovah 'may see nothing indecent in us' (*it-1* 398 ¶2)

Neatness and orderliness of our homes, inside and out, should be a witness to neighbors that we worship the pure God (*w89* 6/1 16-18)

What testimony as to our worshiping a God of holiness would be given by an untidy yard, accumulation of rubbish, unkempt home, or untidy car?

Important also that the people we have to associate with at work or school get to know us as clean-speaking, clean-living individuals who show respect for God and for neighbor by our attitude and dress (*g86* 12/22 23-4; *w89* 6/15 15; *w87* 8/15 13 ¶15)

They can see that serving God in his way helps us to be a happier, healthier, and more satisfied people

THE PURE GOD IS TO BE APPROACHED WITH GODLY FEAR AND AWE (7 min.)

We should be concerned when we are serving Jehovah, representing him in the field ministry or on the platform (*w89* 6/1 19-20)

When required to appear before some prominent official, a governor, or an employer, what is our appearance? Slovenly, careless of manner or grooming, or with a view to giving best impression? (Mal 1:8b)

Our entire appearance and attitude should display genuine awe and respect (*km* 9/80 3)

Anything short of this would be an affront to Jehovah (*w87* 11/1 17 ¶6; *w88* 8/15 17)

King David refused to eat, bathe, or care for his appearance out of sorrow and remorse at approaching death of his son, but when time came to worship Jehovah, he bathed and appeared in presentable fashion (2Sa 12:20)

When assembling for worship, we Christian worshipers should likewise take care to groom and dress, not as it suits our convenience or comfort, but as it pleases the God who invited us to assemble and our fellow worshipers

Assembly for worship is no casual event or ordinary outing

If we have due respect for the happy, blessed congregation, we will not need fixed rules about what we can or cannot wear

We will be pleased to reflect in our appearance the appreciation we have for pure worship

PLEASING GOD MUST COME AHEAD OF PLEASING GODLESS WORLTLINGS (8 min.)

Multitudes sway back and forth in conformance to every fad or fashion (*yp* 91-4; *g89* 10/8 11)

People worship and copy prominent worldlings, in fields of sports, entertainment, business, and society

More time and thought is given to conforming to the ways of this system of things than to the transforming of their minds and manners, something that is essential to gaining life (Ro 12:1, 2)

Important that we refuse to kowtow to the godless system of things or in any way identify ourselves with it, its manners, or its latest fads

We do not want to make ourselves puppets of its fashion market (*yp* 73-80)

Jehovah is no extremist. Neither should we be in any activity of life (1Ti 3:2)

There is no Biblical indication that Paul or other apostles stood out because of some noteworthy or attention-getting style of dress or grooming

ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE WHO ARE CLEAN (10 min.)

In order to maintain the cleanness required by Jehovah, we must watch our associations, choosing only those who will support our decision to please God (1Co 15:33)

Never associate with liars, hypocrites, evildoers, wicked ones, those given to loose conduct or rotten speech (Ps 26:4, 5, 10; w85 11/15 20-1; w71 528)

Those who simply refuse to hear or accept the message of the good news are not acceptable companions

We, like David, should take pleasure in association with the congregated throngs of Jehovah's loyal slaves (Ps 26:12; w72 406-12)

David realized that wrong companionships could lead to his losing his life along with sinners (Ps 26:9; w71 528)

Though our brothers and sisters are not perfect, they are so much more wholesome associates than people in Satan's system

BLESSINGS RESULT FROM A CLEAN WAY OF LIFE (5 min.)

Blessings now—

Our physical health can be improved by clean conduct and habits (g88 9/22 8-11)

Self-respect enhanced by knowledge that no fault can be found with regard to our worship of God (Da 6:5)

We can have satisfaction in matching our service of a clean God with our personal cleanliness (Isa 52:11; w87 11/1 15-16, 20)

Blessings in the future—

We have the promise of God's acknowledgment of us as his sons and daughters (2Co 6:18; 7:1)

Anointed ones will be heavenly sons

After the Thousand Year Reign, God's earthly servants will become perfect human sons of God

Then will have everlasting relationship with the One who is pure and upright in all of his activities, including those of his new system of things (2Co 6:17; 1Jo 3:3)

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read)