

A CLEAN PEOPLE HONORS JEHOVAH

Note to the speaker:

Explain why it is necessary and beneficial for servants of Jehovah to be physically clean and free from defiling habits. Uphold Jehovah's high standards while adapting the material to local needs and circumstances

WE MUST BE HOLY BECAUSE JEHOVAH IS HOLY (3 min.)

Jehovah is a holy God (*it-1* 1127-1128)

Everything that he does for mankind is righteous and beneficial; it is an honor to serve such a God
Jehovah requires that his worshippers likewise be holy [**Read 1 Peter 1:15, 16**]

In the Bible, holiness is frequently linked with cleanness (*Le* 10:10)

If we claim to worship Jehovah but refuse to conform to his standard of cleanness, we bring reproach upon him

In addition to being spiritually, morally, and mentally clean, we must also be physically clean (*1Co* 10:21; *Eph* 5:5; *Php* 4:8)

BE PHYSICALLY CLEAN AND ORDERLY (12 min.)

Jehovah commanded the ancient Israelites to be physically clean (*Ex* 19:10, 11; 29:4; 30:18, 19)

The Israelites had to maintain the cleanliness of their camp (*De* 23:12-14)

The laws God gave them reflected his holiness and were an expression of his care for his people (*Ps* 33:12)

Modern-day servants of God should keep their bodies and clothing clean (*lv* 90-92 ¶14-16)

We should be orderly in all aspects of life [**Read 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40**]

Our homes and automobiles should be clean and orderly, inside and out

We should contribute to the cleanliness of our community by disposing of waste properly (*g* 12/07 10, 11)

We rightly avoid sloppy, extreme styles of dress that reflect the spirit of this system of things (*Ro* 12:1, 2)

Our dress and grooming should reflect "soundness of mind" even in our leisure time (*1Ti* 2:9, 10)

We may need to set aside personal preferences for the sake of the consciences of others (*w12* 8/15 13 ¶8)

Our being clean and orderly reflects well on Jehovah God and the message we bear (*Mt* 5:16)

KEEP FREE FROM "EVERY DEFILEMENT OF FLESH AND SPIRIT" (10 min.)

Appreciation for Jehovah's loving care moves us to shun defiling practices [**Read 2 Corinthians 7:1**] (*2Co* 6:17, 18; *lv* 93-95 ¶20-21)

Smoking, alcohol abuse, and drug abuse show disrespect for Jehovah, the Giver of life (*Ps* 36:9; *lv* 95 ¶22-24)

We cannot give whole-souled service to God while damaging our mind and body (*Mt* 22:37; *w14* 6/1 5; *w10* 1/1 5)

Obscene and abusive speech is unclean and has no place among those who profess love for God (*Col* 3:8; *lv* 136-139 ¶9-14)

Strongly entrenched bad habits can be overcome with God's help (*Php* 4:13)

Jehovah's Witnesses provide Scriptural advice and support to those who want to break free of such habits (*g* 5/10 4-9; *g* 5/09 8-10)

Many have been helped to put away bad practices and now enjoy clean lives [Give one or two examples from the *Watchtower* series "The Bible Changes Lives"]

MAINTAIN YOUR CLEAN STANDING BEFORE GOD (5 min.)

Examine yourself regularly to ensure that Satan's world is not beginning to influence you (*2Co* 13:5; *Jas* 1:23-25)

Choose associates who will help you to remain clean (*1Co* 15:33; *w06* 3/15 23 ¶8-10)

Do not give up if you stumble in your efforts to be clean in Jehovah's sight

Approach Jehovah on the basis of the ransom and ask for forgiveness and help (*1Jo* 2:1; *cl* 159-160 ¶7)

Your continued efforts will result in God's approval and blessing (*2Pe* 3:13, 14; *w03* 7/15 13-14 ¶13-15)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Ministry School* book, pages 52-55, 166-169]