

KEEP CLEAN FROM WORLDLY DEFILEMENTS

Note to the speaker:

Show clearly why dedicated Christians and those striving to please God must be clean, free of worldly defilements. Help all to appreciate that in spite of our imperfections, we can make changes and serve Jehovah in an acceptable way. Be encouraging and warm in your delivery

ALARMING SPREAD OF DEFILING PRACTICES IN MODERN-DAY WORLD (4 min.)

Many express grave concern about increase of defiling practices

Sexual immorality of all kinds, drug abuse, violence, use of tobacco, lying, stealing, and drunkenness abound

Considered by many as normal practices

As Jesus mentioned, these things defile a man (Mr 7:20-23)

To defile something means to make it unclean, corrupt its purity, or violate its chastity

Thinking people ponder the outcome of modern trends, asking what might be done to escape consequences of mounting defilements

As “wicked men . . . advance from bad to worse” and God-dishonoring practices abound, we can easily be contaminated (2Ti 3:13)

World leaders themselves are often corrupt (g96 7/8 19)

Influenced by such things as TV programs, movies, and videos, many have become inured to immorality and violence and have lost respect for human life (g96 7/22 10, 21)

Many express concern about defilements that affect them personally, but in general, virtue, honesty, and righteousness are considered outdated and of no practical value

Attitude of people today much like that of those referred to at Isaiah 5:20, 21

Keeping clean from worldly defilements requires works consistent with faith in God (Tit 1:16)

SINCE JEHOVAH IS HOLY, HIS PEOPLE MUST BE CLEAN AND HOLY (10 min.)

Holiness is required of those serving Jehovah (Isa 52:11; 1Pe 1:14-16)

Hebrew word for holiness conveys thought of separateness, exclusiveness, or sanctification to God; a state of being set aside to the service of God

To pursue holiness and be clean before God, we must take certain actions

Exercise faith in Christ’s sacrifice, which cleanses us from sin (1Jo 1:7, 9)

Make earnest effort to work righteousness (Ac 10:34, 35)

Put on new personality, and use our power of reason to see and appreciate difference between world’s way and God’s clean way (Ro 12:1, 2; Col 3:5-10, 12-14; w93 3/1 17, 18)

Render God exclusive worship within our individual circumstances (Lu 4:8; Joh 4:24; w91 5/15 5)

God’s Word and his visible organization help us to identify defilements and avoid them

Bible contains Christian laws against specific wrongdoings (Ac 15:28, 29; 1Co 6:9, 10)

Organization points out Scriptural principles that can protect us from defilements such as use of tobacco, drug abuse, and gambling, even though some of these practices are not specifically referred to in Bible (Read 2 Corinthians 7:1; g91 8/8 17; g94 2/22 31; g94 8/8 14, 15)

MILLIONS WHO ARE RIGHTEOUSLY INCLINED ARE KEEPING CLEAN (8 min.)

Micah 4:1-4 foretold that people from all nations would move up to a superior way of life

Various factors have a bearing on their becoming cleansed and remaining in that condition

Divine teaching through Word of God to walk in his ways (Ps 119:105; Isa 48:17)

Recognition of need to measure up to and maintain Bible’s high standard of conduct, which requires cleanliness physically, morally, and spiritually (Ps 24:3, 4; Jas 1:27)

Association with a holy nation that God has cleansed and called out of spiritual darkness (Tit 2:11-14; 1Pe 2:9)

Impartial invitation goes to everyone to take up a clean way of life, but who respond to it?

People who sigh and groan over the detestable things taking place (Eze 9:4)

Those who hunger for truth and righteousness (Mt 5:6; w95 12/15 28)

Ones who are rightly disposed for everlasting life under God’s Kingdom (Ac 13:48)

All who have already escaped from worldly defilements must remain clean in God’s eyes

Continually have to recognize God’s requirements and adhere to them

GREAT CROWD BEING CLEANSED OF WORLDLY DEFILEMENTS TODAY (20 min.)

Worldwide, sheeplike ones are being invited to serve Jehovah (Mt 11:28-30)

Bible foretold that multitudes out of all nations would become cleansed from inherited and personal sins and would worship Jehovah before his throne (Re 7:9, 10, 13-17)

Since Jehovah invites us to serve him, we should not feel that we cannot make the necessary changes. Rather, we should take advantage of his provisions to help us overcome defilements of the flesh and the spirit.

Provisions include the Holy Scriptures, prayer, holy spirit, and mature Christians in the congregation. Evidence that God's provisions can help us is verified by real-life experiences of people who have become cleansed from defiling practices:

Use of tobacco (*w96 9/15 17; w94 10/1 9*)

Alcohol and drug abuse (*g96 9/8 14; w94 9/15 27*)

Sexual immorality (*w93 2/1 6; w88 4/15 7*)

Gambling (*g95 9/22 11; g92 6/8 9-10*)

False religious practices and spiritism (*w92 9/1 23; yb92 48-9*)

[Other suitable experiences from Watch Tower publications that highlight key points of this section may be used. If there are other notable examples of worldly defilements common to your area, these may be mentioned along with encouraging experiences of those that have overcome them.]

KEEP FREE OF WORLDLY DEFILEMENTS AND REMAIN CLEAN (3 min.)

Once free from worldly defilements, fight hard to remain cleansed (2Pe 2:20; Jude 3)

Do not give up because of human mistakes or imperfections

Keep on exercising faith in the cleansing power of the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ (1Jo 2:1, 2)

Attend congregation meetings regularly (Heb 10:23-25)

Share the truth with others

Not only will it help them get on the road to life but it will also help you to safeguard your own spirituality and your hope for salvation (1Ti 4:16)

Rejoice over your privilege of honoring Jehovah's holy name and associating with his clean and holy organization (Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)