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Heart of Man

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Introduction**

**Matthew 15:1-20**

* **What Defiles a Person**

**Matthew 15:10-11** And he called the people to him and said to them, “Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.”

The word defile simply means to make one unclean or impure.

Positive laws are laws and commands based on the will of God for a particular people, a particular purpose, and a particular time. The dietary rules were never intended to apply to anyone other than the Israelites.

This purpose ended when Jesus declared all foods clean.

**Mark 7:19b** Thus he declared all foods clean.

**Acts 10:9-15**

**Ephesians 2:14-16** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

**John Gill** “It is sin, and that only, which takes its rise from the heart, lies in thought, and is either expressed by the mouth, or performed by some outward action, which defiles a man.”

What comes out of our mouths shows the condition of our heart.

* **The Condition of the Heart**
* Dead Hearts

**Matthew 15:12-20**

**John 15:1-2, 6** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit… If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

**Matthew 15:17-20**

**Genesis 2:7** then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

**Genesis 2:22** And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

**Genesis 1:31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

What is sin? Sin is disobeying God; sin is any disobedience in heart or deed to God’s perfect law and commands.

**Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent (Satan) was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

**Genesis 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.

What is law? Law is the requirements on man often expressed through commands that God has given.

The universal moral law are unchanging laws and commands based on the right and character of God, to which man is held accountable for all of life. Universal moral laws are written in the hearts of all people, leaving them without excuse in disobedience.

Can mankind perfectly obey God’s law? The answer is no.

Why did God give the law then if we can’t obey it? Because God’s law displays His perfections and glory, informs all mankind what is required of us, and reveals our sin and our desperate need for Someone to deliver us from our sin.

* Regenerated Hearts

The covenant of redemption is the plan and decree made before creation between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to graciously redeem the chosen ones from sin and punishment based on the work required of Jesus. All of creation is set in the context of this divine plan.

**Ephesians 1:3-11**

What makes Jesus’s life different from every other person? Three things: He is God the Son (none of us are), He doesn’t have a biological dad (all of us do), so he does not have an inherited sin nature, and He obeyed God’s law perfectly having never sinned (we sin daily).

**1 Peter 2:22** He (Jesus) committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

**1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

**John 17:9** I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

**John 6:37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

**1 Peter 1:23-25** since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27** I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

* **Application**

1. Guard your heart

**Proverbs 4:23** Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

1. Words reveal the heart

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.

1. True holiness comes from within
2. Beware of legalism
3. Repent of sin at the source
4. Spiritual blindness leads to destruction
5. God looks at the heart, not rituals
6. Be thankful for the grace of God in saving you and giving you a heart to hate sin and love His law, even when you don’t obey it as you should, remembering that it is not you or your righteous deeds that cleansed your heart in the first place, and your own deeds are not required in order for you to remain clean one you have been washed by the Holy Spirit.

* **Conclusion**

**Matthew Henry** “The heart is the root; and if that be corrupt, nothing that passes through it can be clean. Sin is the filth of the soul, and it is that which defiles it.”