

Staying Pure in an Impure World

Mark 7:1-23 [Page 1563]

A. The trouble with man-made rules and rituals. [1-13]

Following man-made rules and rituals...

1. Keeps us focused on _____ instead of _____ and _____ toward God.
2. Leads us to _____ the _____ of _____
3. Exposes our _____
4. Can be kept _____ having a _____ with God.

B. The real source of impurity. [14-23]

Impurity comes from _____. It is _____ in the _____

C. How to stay pure in an impure world:

1. Live _____ to _____. [Ps. 119:9-11]
2. _____ your impurity and ask God to _____ in you a _____. [Ps. 51:10]
3. Commit to _____ with _____ in the _____ of the _____. [Rom. 8:12-14]

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting started:

1. What one family tradition did you observe as a child, still do, and hope to see carried on in the next generation?

Digging deeper:

Read Mark 7:1-23.

1. What is the issue debated by the Pharisees and Jesus? Given this debate, how would each define what it means to be spiritual? How does the quote from Isaiah address the issue at hand?
2. Although the “traditions of the elders” were established to help people obey the law, how is it that they ended up overshadowing that law [8-9]?
3. Theologian J. I. Packer said, “*The question is not whether we have traditions, but whether our traditions conflict with the only absolute standard on these matters: Holy Scripture.*” What traditions do we hold to? Are they subservient to the Word of God?

4. How does Jesus’ idea of being unclean differ from that of the Pharisees?

5. Review the three steps to staying pure in an impure world. Read each passage and discuss how you and your Growth Group can help one another stay true to Jesus in today’s world?

Taking it Home:

1. What changes must you make to stay pure in an impure world?

Prayer Concerns: