

Stop The Contamination

Everyone starts out corrupt - Ps 14:2-3 - 2 The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. 3 All have turned aside, THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME CORRUPT; there is no one who does good, NOT EVEN ONE.

When we become Christian, we are purified (1 Peter 1:22) **It is our responsibility not to be polluted by the world** - James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to **KEEP ONESELF FROM BEING POLLUTED BY THE WORLD**.

We must face the truth: we are either pure or we are not - Titus 1:15-16 - 15 **TO THE PURE, ALL THINGS ARE PURE**, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but **BY THEIR ACTIONS they deny him**. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

A relationship with the world becomes an absolute corruption of the self God intends - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 **DO NOT LOVE THE WORLD OR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD**. **If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him**. 16 For **everything in the world** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Loving the world places us at odds with God Himself - James 4:4 **You adulterous people**, don't you know that **friendship with the world IS hatred toward God**? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world BECOMES an enemy of God.

What's ironic is this: man corrupts the world, and that corruption circles back to corrupt man again - 2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the CORRUPTION IN THE WORLD CAUSED BY EVIL DESIRES.

Bonding with ungodly people WILL corrupt you - 1 Cor 15:33-34 - 33 Do not be misled: "**Bad company corrupts good character**." 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

Corruption infiltrates the lives of believers because our complacency leaves the door open - 2 Cor 11:3-5 - 3 But I am afraid that **just as Eve was deceived** by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be **LED ASTRAY FROM YOUR SINCERE AND PURE DEVOTION TO CHRIST**. 4 For if someone comes to you and **preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached**, or **if you receive a different spirit from the one you received**, or **a different gospel from the one you accepted**, **YOU PUT UP WITH IT EASILY ENOUGH**.

Complete obedience to Christ is the key to stay pure - Luke 6:46-49 - 46 "**Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' AND DO NOT DO WHAT I SAY?**" 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and HEARS MY WORDS and PUTS THEM INTO PRACTICE. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a **flood came, the torrent struck** that house but **could not shake it, because it was well built**. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, **it collapsed and its destruction was complete**."

We have been supplied with all we need to discern the corrupted—and those who corrupt - Matt 7:15-20 - 15 "**Watch out for false prophets**. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 **By their fruit you will recognize them**. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 **EVERY TREE THAT DOES NOT BEAR GOOD FRUIT IS CUT DOWN AND THROWN INTO THE FIRE**. 20 Thus, **by their fruit you will recognize them**.

Wisdom is the defense against corruption - Prov 4:20-27 - 20 My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. 21 **Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart**; 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. 23 **Above all else**, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. 24 Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. 26 Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. 27 Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

We must consciously decide not to be corrupted - Eph 4:17-24 - 17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. 20 **You, however, did not come to know Christ that way**. 21 **Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus**. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to **be made new in the attitude of your minds**; 24 and to **put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**.

Jesus sums it up: our life in the world and our trust in His Word are what set us apart for God's use only and keeps us pure-
John 17:9-19- 9 I pray for them. **I am not praying for the world**, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but **they are still in the world**, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, **protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one.** 12 While I was with them, I **protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me.** None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. 13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 **I have given them your word** and **the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.** 15 My prayer is **NOT THAT YOU TAKE THEM OUT OF THE WORLD** but that you **protect them from the evil one.** 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 **SANCTIFY THEM BY THE TRUTH; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.** 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I SANCTIFY MYSELF, THAT THEY TOO MAY BE TRULY SANCTIFIED.