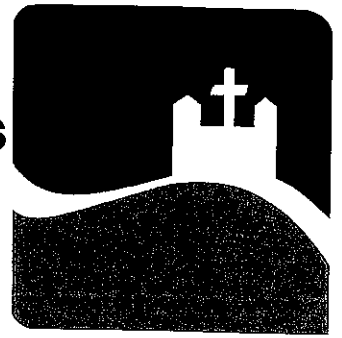


Matthew 15:1-20 Cleanliness is a long way from godliness

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“Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” Colossians 2:23

You washed your hands - have you washed your heart?

1. Clean hands - the superficial traditionalism v1-2

Traditionalism says “Cleanliness IS godliness”

Superficial religious observance has no place
for the reality of sin

2. The dangers of traditionalism v3-7

Pride

Judgmentalism

Undermine and nullify God’s law

Honour for parents “overridden” by “devotion” to God

Hypocrisy - contradiction between inward and outward life

“you are like whitewashed tombs” Matthew 23:27

3. The result of traditionalism v7-9, 12-14

Hypocritical hearts that are far from God

Vain worship because of mere human teaching

Judgment for blind guides v12-14

=> Cleanliness is a long, long, long way from godliness

4. Cleanliness before God is a heart issue, not a hand issue v10-11, 15-20

v10 Listen !! Understand !! What comes out of the mouth comes
from the heart and makes us unclean

Evil thoughts

Commands 5-10
murder
adultery
sexual immorality
theft
false testimony

Slander

*Why do your disciples break the
precious heritage handed to us by our
forefathers? They don't complete the*

**“Tradition is the living faith of the dead.
Traditionalism is the dead faith of the living”**

Challenge: review your own precious held beliefs and practices
in the light of God's word - are they life giving traditions or deadly traditionalism?

Cleanliness before God requires “heart surgery”

*“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your
heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”* Ezekiel 36:26.

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”
Psalm 51:10.