

# CLEANNES BEFORE YAHWEH

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## FORWARD

We offer this booklet with the assurance that readers can draw closer to our loving heavenly Father and gain the many wonderful blessings He wants to shower upon us by understanding and applying His laws regarding cleanness. Your comments and questions are welcome.

In the text and in scripture quotations you will find the personal name of the Creator, Yahweh, and the given name of His son, our savior, Yahshua. His name, "Yahshua" means "Yahweh saves". These names are used in several editions of the Scriptures and are coming into more common usage generally. The Hebrew term elohim will also be found; it means "mighty being" and has most often been translated "god" or "God" in English Bibles.

## Chapter 1

### UNCLEANNES, WHAT AND WHY

**All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but Yahweh weighs the spirits. Proverbs 16:2**

Many believers have abstained from eating unclean meats while not knowing clearly they must do. So, what other rules govern uncleanness, and not knowing what to do about uncleanness which can't be avoided or the occasional inadvertent slip-up.

Yahweh tells us through the prophet Ezekiel **"The priests shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and cause them to discern between the clean and the unclean."** (Ezekiel 44:23). In **Leviticus 10:8-11** Moses cautions the priests not to use any alcohol when they are to go in to serve Yahweh, partly so they will be able to make a clear distinction between clean and unclean. It is important!

#### THE REASON

Yahweh explains the reason for us to avoid uncleanness, **"I am Yahweh that brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim; you shall therefore [for the reason that I am your Elohim] be holy, [pure, clean] for I am holy."** **Leviticus 11:45**. Yahweh is saying here that it is appropriate, fitting and necessary, for someone who is to have the relation to him of "person to Elohim" to be in a clean condition. Yahweh is perfectly pure and clean. He cannot be in harmony with anyone who is so different from him as to disregard the cleanness which He values so highly. We will see this idea many times as we study the subject of cleanness throughout the Scriptures; look at **Leviticus 20:26** and **1 Peter 1:16**, for example.

Is the subject of cleanness still as important to Yahweh as it was two, three, or four thousand years ago? Has Yahweh "gotten with it"? Has He become more liberal along with the world we live in? Have these ordinances been "nailed to the tree?" The writer of **Proverbs 30:12** may have been prophesying of today's time when he wrote, **"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness."**

There is good reason to believe that there ARE certain things which Yahweh still looks down upon as unacceptable because He considers them unclean. We need to know clearly what these things are and HOW WE CAN KEEP FROM TRYING TO COME BEFORE YAHWEH IN A WAY WHICH MAY CAUSE HIM TO TURN AWAY FROM US.

Many believers have abstained from eating unclean meats while not knowing clearly why they must do so, what other rules govern uncleanness, and not knowing what to do about uncleanness which can't be avoided or the occasional inadvertent slip-up. We will explore these issues and others which should be of great interest to the person who has his heart set on pleasing Yahweh.

### WHAT IS UNCLEANNESS?

There are several ways a person can become unclean. We can enter the state of uncleanness by coming into contact with anything unclean, or when we have certain bodily functions occur. When Yahshua said, "**It is not what goes into a man that makes him unclean, it is what comes out of him that makes him unclean.**" (Mark 7:15) He was speaking with full knowledge of these laws. Read the scriptures for yourself and see if you can find why Yahshua was able to make that statement. [See the box on page 22 for the explanation.] What are the things which can make us unclean? Here is a list.

### HOW A PERSON BECOMES UNCLEAN

<b>Unclean things not to touch (nor eat, of course)</b>
<p>The dead body of a person <b>Numbers 19:11</b>          Another person who is unclean <b>Leviticus 5:3</b>          Carcass of a clean animal which died of itself <b>Lev 11:39</b>          The DEAD carcass of an unclean animal <b>Leviticus 5:2-6</b></p>
<p>What are the unclean animals? All except the clean ones.          Clean animals <b>Leviticus 11 &amp; Deuteronomy 14</b>          Mammals with split hooves that chew the cud: cattle, sheep, deer, bison,          Clean water dwellers <b>Leviticus 11 &amp; Deuteronomy 14</b>          those with BOTH fins and scales only          Clean birds- chicken, quail, etc. <b>Lev 11 &amp; Deut 14</b>          Clean insects - grasshoppers, locusts, crickets <b>Lev 11</b></p>

<b>Unclean happenings</b>
<p>Issue of the flesh (a running sore) <b>Leviticus 15:2</b>  Issue of blood (women) <b>Leviticus 15:19</b>  Seed of copulation <b>Leviticus 15:16-18</b>  Bearing a Child <b>Leviticus 12:1-5</b>  Leprosy <b>Leviticus 13 &amp; 14</b></p>
<b>“Secondary” uncleanness</b>
<p>Touching anything “soft” touched by certain unclean people  <b>Leviticus 5:3</b> - an unclean person,  <b>11:32</b> - wood, clothing, leather, cloth touched by carcass,  <b>15:4-12</b> - bed or chair of person with discharge,  <b>15:17</b> - cloth or leather touched by semen  <b>15:19-27</b> -bed or “chair” of woman with abnormal issue</p>
<p>Children of unbelievers are unclean <b>1 Corinthians 7:14</b></p>

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<p>Children of unbelievers are unclean <b>1 Corinthians 7:14</b></p>

## **THESE RULES ARE STILL IN EFFECT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT ERA**

**Yahweh said, "I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their Elohim and they will be my people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate," says Yahweh. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters," says Yahweh Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:16 b-18)** What a clear expression of the very ideas we've seen already - cleanness as a necessary part of the relationship between Yahweh and his people.

Many seem to believe that these rules don't apply anymore, that they were "nailed to the tree", or that Yahshua changed the rules before, at, or after his death.

Yahweh does not change. The things He loves and the things He finds disgusting have not changed. Many people seem to feel it would be a good thing for Yahweh to change with the times, or that Yahshua came to update his father's old-fashioned ideas. Nothing could be further from the truth! **WE CAN DEPEND ON YAHWEH MORE THAN ON SOLID ROCK WHICH CANNOT BE MOVED.** Compared to the stability and dependability of Yahweh; bedrock seems like shifting sand. Yahweh hasn't needed to change - he has always been right! His ways are good, fair, just, and loving from eternity in the past to eternity in the future.

Yahshua didn't eat unclean foods when he was on earth. I believe He didn't even touch anything unclean by accident or without knowing it. Touching sick people was done rarely and for an important purpose. Riding on a donkey would not have made him unclean because the donkey was alive. He was **VERY** careful to keep himself pure and **CAREFULLY** guarded his close relationship with His father. He prayed often for protection from uncleanness and Yahweh was pleased to hear that prayer and to grant his righteous desire. We can see the fruit of His cleanness in the extremely close relationship He had with His Father in heaven. That relationship was not often impaired by uncleanness! That's what I believe.

We'll look at cleanness in the New Testament in more detail, but first let's look at some of the scriptures people have used to try to say Yahweh's thinking has changed on this subject.

### **PETER'S VISION**

The apostle Peter had a vision of unclean beasts which some have taken to mean that they were made clean at that time. What is the actual meaning of this vision? Let's see what **YAHWEH** says.

**Acts 10:3 (NKJV) [the Roman Centurion] "saw clearly in a vision an angel of Yahweh coming in and saying to him, 'Cornelius!'**

**4 “And when he saw him, he was afraid, and said, ‘What is it, Master?’**

**So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before Yahweh. [He kept himself clean!] 5 Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. ...he sent them to Joppa... .”**

**9 The next day, “...Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. 10 Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they prepared the food, he fell into a trance 11 and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. 13 And a voice came to him, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’**

**14 But Peter said, "Not so, Master: for I have never eaten anything common or unclean."**

**15 And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What Yahweh has cleansed you must not call common.**

**16 “This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.”**

**28 Later he said to [the Assembly at Cornelius' house], "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But Yahweh has shown me that I should not call ANY MAN common or unclean.”**

**29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"**

The Rabbis at that time had made rules against touching or having anything to do with non-Jews. These rules were based on **Deuteronomy 7:1-6** as well as other scriptures. The Israelites didn't "utterly destroy" the Canaanites as they were told to do when they came into the land of Canaan. First-century Jews did avoid any contact with non-Jews because those people did not understand nor follow the rules of cleanness as the Jews did. The Jews avoided other people so as not to become unclean by touching them or touching something they had touched. The Gentiles Peter was about to meet were not converts to the Jewish religion, but they were “devout men.” I believe they did observe the laws of cleanness although they may not have. Yahweh was using the unclean animals as a representation of the people Peter was to meet within a short time. The point was that believers who keep themselves clean are not to avoid people just because they are part of a group in which many are unclean. We should judge each person individually. Yahweh was teaching Peter a lesson about prejudice. Peter didn't miss the message. He changed the way he interacted with Gentiles after that incident, but there is no record that he changed his eating habits nor encouraged others to

do so. That was not the message.

The first chapter of Peter's first epistle shows the value he still placed on cleanliness and purity many years later as well as his understanding of prejudice.

## **PAUL'S INSTRUCTION**

Another passage people misuse is **Romans 14:13-20 (NKJV)**. **“Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. 14 I know and am convinced by the master Yahshua that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of your food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom the Messiah died. 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of Yahweh is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he that serves the Messiah in this way is well-pleasing to Yahweh and approved by men. 19 So then, let us follow after things which make for peace, and things by which we may edify one another. 20 Do not undo the work of Yahweh for the sake of food. All things are indeed clean, but it is evil for the man who causes another to stumble by his eating.”** So, there you have it! Paul says we can eat anything, right? - Wrong! People often stop reading when they get to the words they think they want to see. We should be careful to read the scriptures before and after to be sure of getting the whole, clear message Yahweh wants us to have. In this case the message is clarified just a little further on.

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**MUSHROOMS--Gen. 1:29-30** Yahweh tells Adam, **“I have given you every herb yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of the tree yielding see, to you it shall be for food, and to every beast...I have given every green herb for food.”**

Many believers have decided to refrain from eating mushrooms because they are not green and don't exactly have seeds (they have spores). I don't eat mushrooms but I don't see that they can make a person unclean. Yeast is a fungus too, but we certainly can eat yeast bread.

**THE MINK COAT ANOMALY--**While most people in the world are trying to GET things like a mink coat, true believers are trying to obey Yahweh and AVOID touching any part of the dead carcass of an unclean animal (such as the mink). Yahshua warned us: **“That which is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of Yahweh.”**

**KEEPING THINGS RIGHT--Deut. 22:5 (NKJV)** **“A woman shall not wear any armor of a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to Yahweh your Elohim.”**



Paul is talking about people who are vegetarians or who do not drink alcoholic beverages. Some of these people may be offended by those who have different customs. They may even say to themselves "He can't have the Holy Spirit if he drinks like that!" v 20. Continue in verse 21. **"It is good not to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything which causes your brother to stumble. 22 Have your own faith before Yahweh. Blessed is he who does not condemn himself by what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats because he doesn't eat in faith, and whatever is not of faith is sin."** In other words, be careful not to do something which may offend another person even if the thing you do is within the law.

Also in the new testament Paul told the Corinthian believers who were married (1 Corinthians 7:5) **"Don't deprive one another [of marital closeness], except when you agree [with your spouse] to devote yourself to fasting and prayer for a while; and then come back together again so that Satan won't tempt you not for your incontinency."** During this lesson about having a happy marriage Paul was careful to note that there ought to be some times when a man and/or a woman avoids marital relations for the purpose of drawing closer to Yahweh. Being distracted or taking a little time away from your meditation and prayer to make love is not the problem. The problem is that marital relations would interfere with the goal of drawing near to Yahweh, because that makes them UNCLEAN in Yahweh's sight (Leviticus 15:18). They couldn't expect to draw near to Yahweh and communicate with Him in an unclean condition.

## YAHSHUA'S ASSURANCE OF CLEANNESS

In John 15:3 Yahshua tells his disciples, **"You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."** Does this mean that all we need to do to be clean is to read or hear the words of the Messiah? Let Yahshua Himself explain; there is a lot more to it than that. In this passage Yahshua continues by telling the disciples that remaining "in Him" is conditional upon OBEYING the words He has given us from the Father, not merely hearing them. There are many things we must DO. That's the meaning of "bearing fruit" as part of the vine. **"If you keep my commandments, you shall remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in His love."** v. 10. Yahshua didn't mean that He could obey only part of the Old Testament law and still remain in the love of his Father. He kept the entire law. Every jot and tittle. He fulfilled all righteousness. We too must similarly strive to KEEP the entire word of Yahweh. His word is entirely compatible with the words of Yahweh in the old Testament. Yahshua told us that he carefully kept it all.

What a hoax--to tell people they don't need to worry about being clean! The

very ones who ought to **"teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and cause them to discern between the clean and the unclean"** (Ezekiel 44:23) are leading the people into uncleanness. So many people have cut themselves off from Yahweh's blessings because the ministers of Churchianity have told them the Satanic lie that physical cleanness doesn't matter any more. What a tragedy for the people. What a responsibility for those preachers! "For this you know, that no ...unclean person ...has any inheritance in the Kingdom of the Messiah and Yahweh." Let no one deceive YOU with empty words; for because of these things the wrath of Yahweh comes on the sons of disobedience, Ephesians 5:5-6.

## **THE RESULT IF A PERSON IS UNCLEAN**

If a person is unclean, what happens to him or her? Is it a "big deal" to be unclean? Let's see what Yahweh says.

**"But the man who is unclean and will not purify himself, that person shall be cut off from among the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of Yahweh. The water of purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean," Numbers 19:20.**

Cut off! Ostracized from the people of Yahweh! Defiles the sanctuary of Yahweh! All that because he refuses to purify himself. It sounds very serious, doesn't it?

The unclean members of a priest's household were not to eat of peace offerings: **"The meat that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten. It shall be burned with fire. And as for the clean meat, all who are clean may eat of it. 20 But the person who eats the meat of the sacrifice of the peace offering that belongs to Yahweh, while he is unclean, that person shall be cut off from his people. 21 Moreover the person who touches any unclean thing, such as human uncleanness, an unclean [dead] animal, or any abominable unclean thing, and who then eats the flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offering that belongs to Yahweh, that person shall be cut off from his people."** Leviticus 7:19-21 (NKJV).

The unclean are not to approach Yahweh's sanctuary. **"Whoever approaches to the holy things, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from before me..."** Leviticus 22:3.

We read in **2 Chronicles 23:18-19 (NKJV)** **"Also Jehoiada ...set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of Yahweh, so that no one who was in any way unclean should enter."**

We must not take the Passover while unclean: **Speak to the children of Israel, saying "If any one of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or**

is far away on a journey, he may still keep Yahweh's Passover. **11 On the fourteenth day of the second month, at evening, they may keep it...**" **Numbers 9:10-11** (NKJV). If the uncleanness is for any controllable reason, other than burying a family member who has died, the person should make sure to be clean at Passover.

I feel that a baptized woman who is in her time of impurity MAY take the Passover. One reason is because the uncleanness of a corpse is specifically mentioned while other uncleanness is not. Another reason is that the second Passover is provided 29 or 30 days after the first. Most women who were unclean for the first would also be unclean for the second Passover which would defeat the purpose Yahweh intended.

We can notice in **John 13:10** that Yahshua expected that the disciples would certainly have bathed for cleanness before coming for the Passover. One of the disciples, of course, was unclean in his heart. The washing of his body was of no effect in cleansing his heart.

Do you remember the prophecy of the Second Exodus? Yahweh will bring his people out of the North country to the Holy City on a miraculous highway to share in His wonderful kingdom; but NOT those who are unclean. **Isaiah 35:8** says, "**A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others.**" (NKJV)

In **2 Corinthians 12:21** Paul says, "**I will mourn for many who have not repented of uncleanness...**" Why is Paul so concerned about it? The answer is found in **Ephesians 5:5**, where Paul says no unclean person has any inheritance in the Kingdom. "**For this you know, that no fornicator, UNCLEAN PERSON, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of the Messiah and Yahweh.**"

Uncleanness is indeed a SERIOUS matter. It can effect your eternal life and your access to Yahweh's Kingdom. Next we will explain what needs to be done about uncleanness and how we will be blessed for our care in coming before Yahweh clean.

## Chapter 2

### HOW TO GET CLEAN AGAIN

Becoming unclean is serious. It is eternal-life-threatening but it need not be terminal. As you could see from the previous chart, it happens to each of us at some times.

Yahweh has provided ways for us to return to the state of cleanness so that we may come before Him again. Some conditions require washings, some require

time in addition to washings, some require a sacrifice (which becomes a prayer under the New Covenant, **Hebrews 13:15**). Let's update the chart to include the requirements for becoming clean again.

<b>UNCLEAN THINGS NOT TO TOUCH</b>  (nor eat, of course)	<b>HOW TO GET CLEAN AGAIN</b>
The dead body of a person <b>Numbers 19:11</b>	Wash 3rd day & 7th day
Another person who is unclean <b>Lev. 6:3</b>	Sin-offering (prayer)
Carcass of a clean animal which died of itself. <b>Leviticus 11:39</b>	Wash clothes and be unclean until evening
The dead carcass of an unclean animal <b>Lev. 5:2-6</b>	Sin-offering (prayer) and be unclean until evening

What are the clean animals?  
 Clean animals according to **Lev 11 & Deut 14** are  
 Mammals with split hooves who chew the cud: cattle, sheep, deer, bison, etc.  
 Clean water dwellers **Lev 11 & Deut 14** Those with both fins and scales only  
 Clean birds: chicken, quail, etc. **Lev 11, Deut 14**  
 Certain insects: locusts, crickets **Lev 11**

<b>UNCLEAN HAPPENINGS</b>	<b>HOW TO GET CLEAN AGAIN</b>
Issue of the flesh (a running sore) <b>Leviticus 15:2</b>	After the issue stops 7 days, wash clothes, bathe, unclean until evening.
Issue of blood (women) <b>Leviticus 15:19-22</b>	unclean 7 days, bathe, wash clothes
Seed of copulation <b>Leviticus 12:1-4</b>	bathe (clothes also) & unclean until evening
Bearing a son <b>Leviticus 12:1-4</b>	7+33=40 days, then burnt offering (prayer)
Bearing a daughter <b>Leviticus 12:6</b>	14+66=80 days, then burnt offering (prayer)
Leprosy <b>Leviticus 13 &amp; 14</b>	After being healed make offering (prayer) then live outside his house 7 days, shave all hair, wash clothes, bathe.

**“SECONDARY” UNCLEANNESS**

Touching ‘soft’ things touched by certain unclean people <b>Lev. 15:2-12, 19-27</b>	Wash clothes, bathe, unclean until evening
Children of two unbelievers are unclean. <b>1 Corinthians 7:14</b>	If one parent believes they are clean in some way.

One thing we notice is that a person NEVER gets clean by doing nothing. No matter how much time has passed since the incident that made him unclean, he is not automatically clean. He must ACT to get clean again.

If you haven't already done this, ACT NOW to have your past physical uncleanness removed:

- > Repent of your past sins and uncleanness.
- > Make a commitment to Yahweh to be as careful as possible not to become unclean again. However, remember that Paul said, don't decide to generally

avoid relations with your wife or husband.

- > Clean your body carefully; fingernails, teeth, etc.
- > Immerse yourself or take a bath or a shower where you wash yourself as completely as if you were immersed.
- > Put on all clean clothes. (I don't believe you need to wash your leather belt, shoes, wristwatch, or outer coat.)
- > Finally, pray sincerely to Yahweh that he will forgive your sins for the sake of Yahshua's blood and remove your uncleanness. Yahweh can be expected to hear such a prayer and grant such a request.

Unless there are some reasons for uncleanness which take a longer time, you should be clean that evening. If you wanted to fast and pray any special prayer to Yahweh that would be a good time to do it.

The Old Testament Israelites were very familiar with the idea of washing and offering sacrifice to be cleansed from uncleanness. Devout Jews still observe the ritual baths. Whenever they become unclean, and also near the end of the day of preparation, just before each Sabbath, they visit the *mickvah*, a small pool of water made for people to immerse themselves for cleansing. They appreciate the feeling of purity they get when they know they are clean in Yahweh's sight. Many believers find this an excellent way to begin the Sabbath! I would encourage each believer to keep the Sabbath [while you are] holy (clean, pure).

The greatest immersion in history is recorded in **Exodus 14** where the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea. Read the whole chapter- it's a great story. Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 10:1-2**, **"I don't want you to be ignorant, brethren. Our fathers were all under a cloud and all passed through the sea; and were all immersed with Moses in the cloud and in the sea."** Hebrews **11:29** says they did this by faith.

When Yahweh was about to come to the children of Israel to make the covenant with them at Sinai about six weeks later He said they HAD to become clean. **10 Then Yahweh said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothes." 14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people, and they washed their clothes. 15 And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not come near your wives," Exodus 19:10, 14-15.**

King David also knew the power of washing to remove uncleanness. After he had sinned, he wrote in **Psalm 51:2 and 7**, **"Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.... Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."**

Learn more about Old Testament washings to remove uncleanness by reading **Jeremiah 4:14, Leviticus 15, Leviticus 17:15-16, Numbers 19 and Genesis 35:2-3.**

The New Testament believers also knew the value of cleansing themselves and being clean before Yahweh. In **1 Thessalonians 4:7-8** Paul says, **“For Yahweh did not call us for uncleanness, but for holiness. Therefore he who rejects [being clean], rejects not man, but Elohim, who gives his holy spirit to you.”** This scripture seems to be saying that Yahweh's Holy Spirit will not dwell in an unclean person.

Read **Ezekiel 43:18-26** where the prophet talks about cleansing the altar so Yahweh could come. The Holy Spirit would not come to an unclean temple. **Our bodies are the temple of Yahweh. “Don't you know that you are the temple of Yahweh and that the Spirit of Yahweh dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of Yahweh, Yahweh will destroy him. For the temple of Yahweh is holy, and you are that temple,” 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.**

The New Testament starts right out with immersion. Just before Yahshua began His ministry John the Immerser prepared the way with his immersing campaign. **Matthew 3:11 (NKJV), “I indeed immerse you in water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will immerse you in the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 13 “Then Yahshua came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be immersed by him. 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be immersed by You, and You are coming to me?’”**

**15 But Yahshua answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness in this way.” Then he allowed Him.**

**16 When He had been immersed, Yahshua came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of Elohim descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”** John knew that Yahshua was not unclean nor sinful, but Yahshua told him that it would be valuable as a fulfillment of the requirements for his ministry to be ceremonially cleansed as was required of all men beginning the work of the priesthood. With that, and his father's blessing, Yahshua was ready to begin.

Notice also that Yahshua and his disciples kept the Old Testament laws of cleanness. At the last supper **Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet.”**

**Yahshua answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.”**

**9 Simon Peter said to Him, “Master, not my feet only, but also my hands**

and my head!”

**10** Yahshua said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” **11** For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean,” **John 13:8-11** (NKJV). Yahshua seems to be saying, “You have all had your mikvah bath in preparation for the Passover. The only other thing you need is to participate in this ceremony of foot-washing; not for cleanness but to show an attitude of love and service between you and me.”

Several weeks later at the feast of Weeks **Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be immersed in the name of Yahshua the Messiah for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,” Acts 2:38.** As we all know, immersion is a central element of the New Covenant Assembly. We can also read of the relationship between immersion and the remission of sins in **Acts 22:16, 1 Corinthians 6:11** and **Hebrews 10:22**, among other places. Of course we understand that it is the name of Yahshua and ALL THAT NAME IMPLIES which gives the remission of sins. The immersion doesn't cause forgiveness of sins. It is an important symbol connected with the long-established rites of restoring cleanness and is also a symbol of a grave in which the ‘old self’ is buried. Send for the booklet on Baptism to learn more about this vital step in the life of a believer.

The Apostles knew the importance of cleanness before Yahweh. Those gentile converts who were not accustomed to observing the laws of cleanness were guided on the right path when they accepted the Messiah. Righteousness and holiness included cleanness. Paul said, “**I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you did present your members as servants of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as servants of righteousness for holiness.**” **Romans 6:19.**

When Paul included uncleanness among the works of the flesh in **Galatians 5:19** and **Colossians 3:5** he was speaking of exactly these things. In **Ephesians 5:25** he writes “**Husbands, love your wives, even as the Messiah also loved the Assembly and gave Himself for her, 26 so that He might set her apart and cleanse her with the washing of water according to the word, 27 that he might present her to Himself a glorious assembly, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be clean and without blemish.**” The washing is with water according to, “the word“. The emphasis is still on cleanness when coming into a relationship with Elohim. In **Revelation 19:7-14** we see an image of the bride of the Messiah. The Assembly has made herself ready for her marriage and is clean and dressed in white. Further emphasis on cleanness



can be found in **2 Timothy 2:21**.

The forgiveness of sins with the associated SPIRITUAL cleansing is explained in **1 John 1:9**. **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** This spiritual cleanliness is different from the physical cleanness which is also required. The two are parallel and similar but still separate. Don't confuse the remission of sins by Yahshua's blood (which is spiritual cleanness) with avoiding unclean foods and washings, etc., which yield physical cleanness. An understanding of the Old Testament laws of cleanness is essential to understand the Messiah, the New Covenant, the New Covenant Assembly and many principles Yahweh wants us to know.

Why Yahshua could say, **"It is not what goes into a man that makes him unclean, it is what comes out of him that makes him unclean," Mark 7:15.**

1. The unclean things to eat are also unclean to touch. It is unlawful to even touch the carcass of a swine. When a person begins to eat it he becomes unclean as soon as it touches his fingers or his lips. Actually eating it (taking it into his body) does NOT make him MORE unclean.

2. Besides touching ;unclean things the only ways to become unclean are if some certain things come out of the person; blood, semen, or some abnormal fluid. Normal things that come out of a person such as sweat, urine and feces do not make the person unclean.

3. Besides being completely accurate concerning the laws of physical cleanliness Yahshua was giving guidance in the area of attitude and associations. It does not cause a person to become unacceptable to Yahweh because they accidentally hear some vile language or idea. If they reject the thought from becoming their own, then they are not mentally unclean.

If a person speaks the vile language or thought, then he shows by the fruit that he is unclean indeed.

**"From within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed; fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, covetings, wickednesses, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness. All these things proceed from inside and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23.**

Yahweh will reject such a person unless he repents.

## THE FRUITS OF CLEANNESS

We have seen the terrible consequences of being unclean. We also now know what we must do to stay clean and to get clean again if we become unclean. Let's look at the results in store for the person who IS clean. It can all be summed up as being close to Yahweh but let's look at some of the details. Below are six scriptures which show special blessings of being clean. The results of cleanness are highlighted with capital letters.

**“Who may ascend into the hill of Yahweh? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive BLESSING from Yahweh, and RIGHTEOUSNESS from the Elohim of his salvation.” Psalm 24:3-5 (NKJV).** **“Truly ELOHIM IS GOOD to Israel, TO SUCH AS ARE PURE in heart; but as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped.” Psalm 73:1&2 (NKJV).**

**Ezekiel 36:25-29 (NKJV), “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you A NEW HEART and put A NEW SPIRIT within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your Elohim. 29 I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring NO FAMINE upon you.”**

**John 15:2-4 “...every branch that bears fruit He cleanses it that it may BEAR MORE FRUIT. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”**

Why did Yahshua tell us this? **“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you,” John 15:11-12 (NKJV).** He told us these things, because He knew it would give us great joy to know that Yahweh would clean us enough so we could stay close to Him.

**“For Yahweh your Elohim walks in the midst of your camp, to DELIVER YOU and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you,” Deuteronomy 23:14 (NKJV).**

**“And what agreement has the temple of Yahweh with idols? For you are**

**the temple of the living Elohim. As Yahweh has said “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their Elohim, and they shall be My people. 17 Therefore Come out from among them and be separate,” says Yahweh. Do not touch what is unclean, and I WILL RECEIVE YOU. 18 I will BE A FATHER TO YOU, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says Yahweh Almighty.” 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 (NKJV).**

What a list of blessings! It seems that cleanness brings with it all the most precious things we could desire from the Father in heaven.

There are several other benefits to consider about keeping yourself clean as Yahweh counts cleanness.

Being clean makes you feel better about talking with Yahweh in prayer, about being with Yahweh's people, about yourself. There's a lot to be said for being “holy as Yahweh is holy” just by the simple means of being careful what you touch and eat. We have seen that the principle that Yahweh's spirit will not dwell in an unclean person comes from the Scriptures and agrees with what we have learned in this study. It seems wise, therefore, to keep ourselves clean as much as we can to guard our relationship with Yahweh.

Keeping yourself clean in these ways is an example to those in your family and at your place of work. It's a low-key way to witness. People recognize you as a special person. They see you setting certain very rigid bounds for yourself which you observe very carefully, but with understanding and without superstition. This example could be a key factor in their conversion at some future time when they can look back and see the consistency of your actions with all you have said about your beliefs. Of course, if we have loose standards or are inconsistent it could work just the opposite way.

Keeping yourself clean also serves as a constant reminder to obey all of Yahweh's other laws. It's not easy to take special care with what you eat at lunch while having a luncheon meeting at which you plan some wrongful act. I suppose it can be done only if we “don't let the right hand know what the left hand is doing.” Regrettably, many people seem to be able to do that.

If you are in the habit of bathing after marital relations for cleanness reasons, it can't be easy to commit adultery and cleanse yourself in the same way for the same reasons. I can't see how it would work without some pretty fancy self-deception.

Finally, remember that keeping yourself physically clean in this way CAN NOT GET YOU SAVED. Taking a bath to become physically clean DOES NOT take away ANY sin. Avoiding unclean foods will not make up for committing any sin. If you sin and refuse to repent, Yahweh will turn his back on you in an instant no matter how carefully you have abstained from eating pork.

Don't get so wrapped up in rules that you forget why the rules were made.

The ONLY way to have your sin removed is still by repenting and asking for Yahweh's grace through the blood of Yahshua. Those who willfully reject cleanness, however, will have that sin to repent of.

Don't get so wrapped up in rules that you forget why the rules were made. Likewise the only way to have physical cleanness is to avoid touching unclean things and to wash, etc. if you do become unclean. Just as with any other sin, uncleanness can definitely work against your salvation but cleanness CANNOT save you. Just like many other things, cleanness in the New Covenant has a STRONGER meaning; we are required to be clean in body AND in spirit. With the greater requirements come the greater rewards we have seen.

**“Therefore, beloved, having these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh AND spirit, striving for perfect holiness in the fear of Yahweh.” 2 Corinthians 7:1.**

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