

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Mark 7:5-23  
Lesson #45  
Defilement  
08/02/2020

"We're tired of the national conversation centering on "What should we fear?" and "Who should we blame?"."

Brene Brown



1

# Fear



is perhaps the most powerful negative emotion that affects spiritual decisions.

2

# Fear



"Men go to far greater lengths to avoid what they fear than to obtain what they desire."

3

## The Top 10 Fears That Hold People Back in Life:

- **Change (1)**
- **Loneliness (2)**
- **Failure (3)**
- **Rejection (4)**
- **Uncertainty (5)**
- **Something Bad Happening (6)**
- **Getting Hurt (7)**
- **Being Judged (8)**
- **Inadequacy (9)**
- **Loss of Freedom (10)**

Note how many involve social image and relationships.

Nov.4, 2019  
BY AMY MORIN,  
Psychotherapist,  
"13 THINGS MENTALLY  
STRONG PEOPLE DON'T DO" 4

1 Peter 1

"13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but **like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves** also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, **"You shall be holy, for I am holy."**"

## Holiness is

- the theme of the **Biblical narrative.**
- the core of the **Mosaic Law.**
- the basis of the **Gospel message.**
- the calling of the **Body of Christ.**

5

## Two covenant paths



**New Covenant**  
Spirit centered  
Love motivated  
Worship oriented

**Old Covenant**  
Law centered  
Fear motivated  
Discipline oriented



6

## Defilement

**“to be made unholy”**

**“to be made unacceptable”**



Under the Mosaic Law

**“CONTACT”**

with certain foods,  
people, places,  
experiences, etc.  
was defiling.

7

**NOTE: Capital offenses under the Law of Moses.**

**Old Covenant**  
**Fear!**

### Religious practices

- Sacrificing to false gods
- A Gentile too close to the temple
- Human sacrifice
- Worshipping false gods
- False prophecy
- Communicating with the dead
- Witchcraft in general
- Blasphemy
- Sabbath breaking

### Miscellaneous practices

- Murder
- Negligent murder, except slaves.
- Smiting a parent
- Cursing a parent
- Persistently disobeying parents
- Kidnapping
- Contempt of court
- False witness to a capital crime

### Sexual practices

- Rape of a betrothed woman
- Premarital sex
- Adultery with a married woman
- Loss of virginity prior to marriage
- Homosexual acts
- Prostitution
- Bestiality

8

*Romans 8:15*

“For you have not received  
**a spirit of slavery leading to fear again,**  
but you have received a spirit of adoption  
as sons by which we cry out,  
“Abba! Father!”.”

**Old Covenant Fear** has  
no place in the life of a  
disciple of the New  
Covenant

9

*Mark 7*

“ 5 And the Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with **impure hands?**” 6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, *‘This people honors Me with their lips, But **their heart is far away from Me.*** 7 *But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’* 8 Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.””

10

“14 After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, “Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: 15 **there is nothing outside the man which going into him can defile him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.** 16 If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.” 17 When he had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the **parable.**”

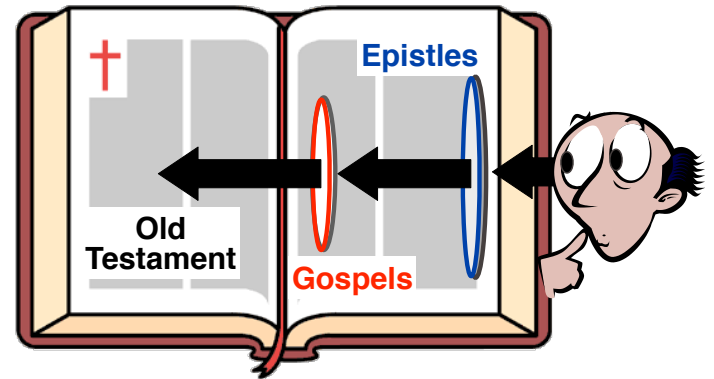
**The defilement that we fear  
comes not from external contacts  
but from the condition of our heart.**

11

“<sup>18</sup> And He said to them, “Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him; <sup>19</sup> because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?” (Thus He declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup> And He was saying, “That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. <sup>21</sup> For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the **evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,** <sup>22</sup> **deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness.** <sup>23</sup> All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.””

12

*We interpret the Scriptures through lenses.*



The writings of the Apostles (Epistles) provide a commentary (explaining) Jesus' words and deeds.

13

### Colossians 2

“<sup>20</sup> If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <sup>21</sup> **“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”** <sup>22</sup> (which all refer to things destined to perish with the using) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? <sup>23</sup> These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.”

Paul explains (interprets & applies) the O.C. Law **through the lens of the N.C.**

This differed from the way many Jewish traditions applied it.

14

## What constitutes spiritual defilement?



Anything that tarnishes our **baptismal identity** as Alien Ambassadors in this life.

15

Exorcism is **not emphasized** in the Apostle's teaching to the early church.

### References to exorcism in the New Testament

Gospels (23)	Acts (2)	Epistles (0)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus is tempted/tested in the desert by the Devil/Satan</li> <li>• Unclean Spirit/Demon in Synagogue at Capernaum</li> <li>• Jesus casts out a demon that made a man dumb (mute)</li> <li>• Beelzebul Controversy: What power does Jesus use?</li> <li>• Gerasene/Gadarene Demoniac possessed by "Legion"</li> <li>• Syro-Phoenician Woman's Daughter</li> <li>• Boy with an Epileptic Spirit</li> <li>• Another casting out Demons in Jesus' name</li> <li>• Jesus "rebukes" the fever of Simon's Mother-in-Law</li> <li>• Summarizes Jesus' exorcisms and his healings</li> <li>• Jesus goes throughout Galilee casting out demons</li> <li>• Unclean spirits recognize Jesus, but he silences them</li> <li>• The 12 have authority to cast out demons</li> <li>• The Devil/Satan taking away the word in people's hearts</li> <li>• Apostles have authority over unclean spirits</li> <li>• Apostles cast out many demons &amp; cure the sick</li> <li>• "Get behind me, Satan!"</li> <li>• "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven"</li> <li>• Jesus heals a crippled woman</li> <li>• Satan enters into Judas Iscariot at the Last Supper</li> <li>• "Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat"</li> <li>• Jesus had cast out seven demons from Mary Magdalene</li> <li>• Believers will cast out demons in Jesus' name</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul casts out demon</li> <li>• Paul heals and casts out demon</li> </ul>	

Could this mean that Jesus' miracles are primarily **notarizing signs of his authority** over death and the demonic?

16

### 1 Corinthians 10

“<sup>23</sup> All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify. <sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor. <sup>25</sup> Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience' sake; <sup>26</sup> *for the earth is the Lord's, and all it contains.* <sup>27</sup> **If one of the unbelievers invites you, and you wish to go, eat anything that is set before you, without asking questions for conscience' sake.** <sup>28</sup> But if anyone should say to you, “This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience' sake; <sup>29</sup> I mean not your own conscience, but the other man's; for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?”

Defilement comes not from the meat but from **insensitivity to another person's welfare.**

17



*John 17*

“15 I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. 16 **They are not of the world**, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, **I also have sent them into the world**. 19 For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. 20 “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;”

**Holiness**  
**calls us to be in the world**  
**but not of the world.**

“Alien Ambassadors”

18

This is the emphasis in the early church.

*Romans 12*

“<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and **holy** sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**Paul is talking about “DEFILEMENT” here.**

19

“<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,”

**1. Grace** is our foundation

- “urge” - Paul does not “command” but rather pleads for a free and reasoned response.
- “therefore” - “because of” - what follows is based on what is revealed in ch.1-11.

**Test question**

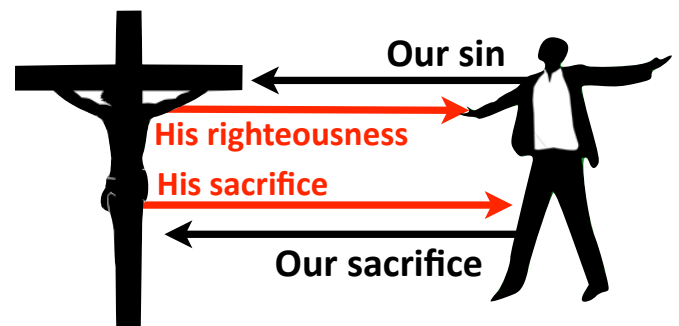
**To what extent are we still looking for love in all the wrong places?**

**Defilement feeds on a life lived**  
**“outside, over, or under the Law”**

20

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin on our behalf**, so that we **might become the righteousness** of God in Him.”



*Romans 12:1*

“I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, to **present your bodies** a living and holy **sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

21

“. . . to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

**2. Sacrifice** is our offering

- “present” - **We must lay aside (sacrifice) our personal physical comforts** to be “salt and light”
- “living and holy sacrifice” - **a part of us (our old self) must die** if we are to escape defilement.

**Test question**

**What have we willingly sacrificed**  
**to be a disciple of Christ?**

22

“<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world,”

**3. Attachment** is our agenda

- “conformed to this world” - **Don’t be a disciple of the spirit of this age and world.**

**Test question**

**How have we responded when we lost something of this world that we valued?**

**Worldliness is not just behavior but rather a way of thinking, seeing, longing, and working for things the world can give and take away.**

23

“<sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world,”

### **This is in contrast to Rom.1**

*Romans 1:21,25*

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

“For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,”

24

“... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,”

### **4. Mindset** is our battlefield

- “be transformed” - comes from the Geek word behind “metamorphosis” - the same animal takes on a radically different form.
- “your mind” - the seat of understanding contrasted with 1:28 “depraved mind.”

**Test question**

**Have we given up trying to have it both ways?**

25

“... that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

### **5. Authenticity** is our mandate

- “prove” - has the idea of “demonstrate” or “show.”

**Test question**

**Can others look at our life and clearly know who we are a disciple of?**

We are **created to display “God’s Image”** in this world as “salt and light”.

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### *Points of Application*

1. **Take defilement seriously** because it robs us of our identity, peace, joy, power, & purpose.
2. **Give attention to our inner life (heart & mind)** because it is the source of everything we say and do.
3. **Be a disciple of the Lord of the New Covenant** free, secure, and alien ambassadors.
4. **Treat our bodies as temples, treasures, and tools, not toys.** We are a soul with a body not a body with a soul.

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*Romans 12:1-2*

**Avoid spiritual defilement by walking in the light where:**

1. **Grace** is our foundation
2. **Sacrifice** is our offering
3. **Attachment** is our agenda
4. **Mindset** is our battlefield
5. **Authenticity** is our mandate

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