

## LOVING OTHERS WITH PURITY

Mark 7:1-21

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**BIG IDEA:** Honor God by committing to have a pure heart, not just by following acts of religious tradition.

INTRO:

1. The **central** problem of impurity
2. The **contrasting** approach to purity

### A. THE **REMEDY** OF IMPURITY

1. **Emphasizing** tradition over biblical authority (v. 1-5,8)
2. **Engaging** external practices over internal holiness (v. 6-7)
3. **Exercising** the peripheral issues by ignoring the central truth (v. 8-13)

### B. THE **ROOT** OF IMPURITY

1. Impurity is **skin**-deep (v. 17-19)
2. Impurity is due to our **sinful** nature (v. 20-23)

### C. THE **RESTORATION** OF PURITY

1. Purify your hearts by keeping a good **conscience** (1 Timothy 4:12)
2. Pay attention to the Holy Spirit's **conviction** (Psalm 119:9-11)
3. Pursue the reflection of purity by looking up to **Christ** (1 John 3:2-3)
4. Pray always that God will **create** in you a pure heart (Psalm 51:10-12)

CONCLUSION

Jesus warns us that it is not the outward things that make us impure but rather the inward things like "evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness" that make us impure. May you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to approach, repent and receive God's grace giving us a "clean heart."