

Purity Requires a Filter

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1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

I. Our language has so degenerated in the past century that very few people understand enough words to rightly divide the truth.

A. As morals decline, so does language, and therefore, intelligence, since intelligence depends greatly on the ability to understand and communicate.

B. Particularly since the 1970's there has been a drastic decline in vocabulary, regardless of the level of education attained.

C. With moral decline comes the decline in all knowledge and skills.

D. Anyone who is serious about studying the Bible and getting understanding from the Word of God will find himself looking up words and studying definitions often, because to properly understand the Word of God we must properly understand the words it contains.

II. So as we talk about purity and purifying ourselves we need to understand exactly what we are talking about and not make assumptions based upon our very limited understanding of what it means to be pure.

A. Let's start by looking at the dictionary to clarify what we are talking about.

PU'RIFY, v.t.

1. To make pure or clear; to free from extraneous admixture; as, to purify liquors or metals; to purify the blood; to purify the air.

B. We purify water, air, coffee, oil, fuel, and all kinds of other liquids by running them through a filter.

C. A filter removes the stuff that is not supposed to be in it, or that we do not want in it.

D. A filter keeps the foreign stuff from gumming up the works, like in a furnace, or an oil filter on an engine, or a fuel filter in the fuel line.

E. A filter is something in between us and the stuff that will make us sick, ruin our equipment, or sometimes might even kill us.

F.

FIL'TER, n.

A strainer; a piece of woolen cloth, paper or other substance, through which liquors are passed for defecation.

FIL'TER, v.t. To purify or defecate liquor, by passing it through a filter, or causing it to pass through a porous substance that retains any feculent matter.

LIQ'UOR, n. lik'or *L. liquor.*

A liquid or fluid substance. *See [Liquid](#)*. Liquor is a word of general signification, extending to water, milk, blood, juice, etc.; but its most common application is to spirituous fluids, whether distilled or fermented, to decoctions, solutions, tinctures.

FEC'ULENT, a. Foul with extraneous or impure substances; muddy; thick; turbid; abounding with sediment or excrementitious matter.

- III. We cannot hope to remain pure in a world like this unless we have a filter.
- A. We cannot hope for our children to remain pure unless they have a filter.
 - B. We can be their filter while they are very young, but every day as they get older they will see and hear more from this world, and they will be exposed to all of its filth and corruption.
 - C. We cannot maintain purity by isolating ourselves completely from the world around us because that is impossible to do.
 - D. To maintain purity we must have something between us and the world around us that stops the filth before it goes in our eyes and ears.
 - E. Sometimes what is coming through the pipes from the world is so polluted that there is nothing good to filtered out.
 - F. In that case it is best to just shut off that pipe: TV, Internet, Radio, magazines, Social media, etc.
 - G. Accountability is a means to have a filter.
 - H. When a person has their phone or their computer or tablet closed to anyone else they are much more likely to be corrupted by it.
 - I. When you know that other people can and do look at your device you will filter what you look at and listen to.
 - J. The best filter is to walk close to God and realize that He sees all you do and see.
 - K. If God is a reality to you, then you will close doors, and not open them to the filth of the world around us.
 - L. The other aspect we have to use a filter on is the corruption that is already in us.
 - M. Not just the filthy stuff we have seen with our eyes and heard with our ears, but the philosophies, and wisdom we have adopted from the lies of this world around us.
 - N. We need to set guards to maintain purity, but the Word of God is our filter for purifying ourselves from the pollution that gets through the guards.

1 Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Ephesians 5:26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

- O. We need a filter on what is incoming and a filter on the outgoing.
- P. A filter to keep it out and something to wash away what has gotten in.
- Q. The filter to keep it out must be our own doing; it is our responsibility, not God's.
- R. The washing away what has gotten in is God's business and He will do that for us if we obey his truth.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.