

# **AA15. Keeping Free from, and Purifying Ourselves from Things that Defile.**

*We are to keep free from, and purify ourselves from things that defile.*

AA15a: *We are to keep free from things that defile.*

AA15b: *We are to purify ourselves from things that defile.*

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

## **Key New Testament Scriptures**

### 2 Corinthians 7:1

*Therefore, my dear friends, since we have these promises, let us purify ourselves from everything that can defile either body or spirit, and strive to be completely holy, out of reverence for God.*

### Ephesians 4:19

*They have lost all feeling, so they have abandoned themselves to sensuality, practicing any kind of impurity and always greedy for more.*

### Ephesians 5:5

*For of this you can be sure: every sexually immoral, impure or greedy person- that is, every idol-worshipper- has no share in the Kingdom of the Messiah and of God.*

### Colossians 3:5

*Therefore, put to death the earthly parts of your nature- sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed (which is a form of idolatry);*

### 2 Timothy 2:21

*If a person keeps himself free of defilement by the latter, he will be a vessel set aside for honorable use by the master of the house and ready for every kind of good work.*

### 1 Peter 1:22

*Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth, so that you have a sincere love for your brothers, love each other deeply, with all your heart.*

### 1 John 3:3

*And everyone who has this hope in him continues purifying himself, since God is pure.*

## **Additional New Testament Scriptures**

John 18:28

2 Corinthians 6:6, 12:21

Ephesians 5:3

Philippians 1:10

James 3:17

### **Related New Testament Mitzvot**

AA01 Aspiring to Godliness and Holiness

AA04 Seeking to Be Both Inwardly and Outwardly Clean

AA16 Not Contemplating How to Gratify Sinful Desires

AA25 Focusing Our Thoughts on Things Good, Pure, Holy, and Praiseworthy

AA26 Not Touching That Which is Unclean

GB08 Conducting Ourselves Wisely and with Godly Purity

### **Supportive Tanakh Scriptures**

#### Leviticus 11:43-44

*You are not to make yourselves detestable with any of these swarming, crawling creatures; do not make yourselves unclean with them, do not defile yourselves with them. For I am ADONAI your God; therefore, consecrate yourselves and be holy, for I am holy; and do not defile yourselves with any kind of swarming creature that moves along the ground.*

#### Numbers 19:13

*Anyone who touches a corpse, no matter whose dead body it is, and does not purify himself has defiled the tabernacle of ADONAI. That person will be cut off from Isra'el, because the water for purification was not sprinkled on him. He will be unclean; his uncleanness is still on him.*

#### Psalms 106:38-39

*Yes, they shed innocent blood, the blood of their own sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to Kena'an's false gods, polluting the land with blood. Thus they were defiled by their deeds; they prostituted themselves by their actions,...*

#### Proverbs 22:24-25

*Don't associate with an angry man; make no hot-tempered man your companion. If you do, you may learn his ways and find yourself caught in a trap.*

#### Ezekiel 20:7

*I told them, "Each of you is to throw away the detestable things that draw your eyes. Do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt. I am ADONAI your God."*

#### Ezekiel 20:18

*I said to their children in the desert, "Don't live by the laws of your fathers, observe their rulings or defile yourselves with their idols."*

#### Daniel 1:8

*But Dani'el resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or the wine he drank, so he asked the chief officer to be excused from defiling himself.*

## **Comment**

People and things can be defiled. When something is defiled, it is made impure or unclean, and therefore unsuitable for its intended use. In Scripture, its meaning is to make a thing or a person unclean and unholy, i.e., unsuitable for ministry or for entering the Tabernacle (later the Temple). In Scripture, the defilement of a person occurs when a person either sins or comes into contact with an unclean or prohibited object or substance. There are, however, exceptions. In the Mosaic Covenant, a woman was made unclean for a short time after giving birth – presumably due to its association with blood and the temporary unhealed condition of her body. She was not, however, referred to as defiled. Similarly, a person with bodily sores was considered unclean but not defiled. For purposes of this *Mitzvah* (and in the New Covenant), defilement is understood to be the result of sin. We are therefore commanded not to sin in the first place, to repent when we do, and to keep away from people, things, and situations that would tempt us to spiritual uncleanliness.

## **Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2**

A10 Ritual Purification, Cleanness, Separation & Health

A14 Aspiring to God's Perfection & Holiness

A24 *Being Clean of Spirit as Well as of Body*

H04 Using Our Speech, Thoughts, Hearts and Actions for that which Is Good and Holy

P06 *Priests Ministering While Spiritually Unclean*

P07 *Levitical Priests Being Near a Dead Body*