

I. Intro – Augustine’s Pears

- A. Story of Augustine and the pears
- B. Augustine – this shows depth of sin
- C. Some critics – lighten up! Overwrought conscience
- D. What is the nature of our sin problem?
- E. How is it dealt with?
- F. This is the controversy in Crete as well!

II. The Pure Gospel

- A. To the pure – those cleansed by Christ
 - 1. Speaking of those morally pure before God
 - 2. They are cleansed by Christ
 - a. NT - Titus 2:13-14; 1 John 1:7-9; Acts 15:7-11
 - b. OT as well – Heb 9:11-14; Ps 51:1-7
 - 3. Pure Gospel – internal; external.; confess/faith
 - a. Recognize sin is internal – not from external objects
 - b. Recognize solution is from outside themselves
 - c. Confess sin and look to Christ in faith
- B. All things pure – no ceremonially unclean objects

- 1. Speaking of ceremonial purity
- 2. Nothing is impure/outlawed ceremonially
 - a. Mark 7:18-19; Rom 14:14,20; 1 Cor 10:25-26
 - b. No object is inherently impure

III. The Corrupt Teaching

- A. Those who are corrupted – not cleansed by Christ
 - 1. Speaking of those not cleansed by Christ
 - 2. They try to cleanse themselves - unbelief
 - a. v15; 1 Tim 4:3; Mark 7:5-7; 14-15; 18-23
 - 3. Corrupt teaching – sin external; I correct; works
 - a. They think sin is external; solution in themselves; works!
 - b. Exact opposite of the pure Gospel!
- B. Nothing is pure – they defile everything!
 - 1. Nothing is pure for them! (v15)
 - 2. Even they are corrupt! (v15)
 - 3. In fact, they defile all they touch! (v16; Hag 2:13-14)

IV. Corrupt Teachings & Pure Gospel Today

- A. Do we recognize corrupt teachings today?

1. Teachings that minimize our sin problem
 2. Teachings that blame our sin on others (Henry quote)
 3. Teachings that offer solution other than the Gospel
 4. These will not heal our true disease!
- B. Do we recognize and embrace the true Gospel
1. Our problem is **sin** – not something else
 2. Our problem is **our** sin – not others sin
 3. The only solution to our problem is Christ!
- C. Do we recognize corrupt teachings are powerless before sin?
1. They can't remove guilt and punishment of sin
 2. They can't deal with sin's power (Col 2:20-23; Google trends)
 3. Gospel deals with guilt, punishment, & power!

The Pure Gospel vs. Corrupt Teachings

Titus 1:15-16

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1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.** 8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and **purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:7-9

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and **cleanse** me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. 7 **Cleanse** me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:1-7

18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that **nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'?** 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." **(In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.")** Mark 7:18-19

14 As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced **that no food is unclean in itself...** 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. **All food is clean,** but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. Romans 14:14, 20

3 They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:3

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of **eating their food with 'unclean' hands?**" 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but **their hearts are far from me.** 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" Mark 7:5-7

14 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. 15 **Nothing outside a man can make him 'unclean' by going into him.** Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him 'unclean.'" Mark 7:14-15

18 "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him 'unclean'? 19 For it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods "clean.") 20 He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean.'" 21 For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. 23 **All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'**" Mark 7:18-23

13 Then Haggai said, "If a person defiled by contact with a dead body touches one of these things, does it become defiled?" "Yes," the priests replied, "it becomes defiled." 14 Then Haggai said, "'So it is with this people and this nation in my sight,' declares the LORD. **'Whatever they do and whatever they offer there is defiled.'** Haggai 2:13-14

Neither the devil nor any other person or thing is to be blamed so as to excuse ourselves; for the true original of evil and temptation is in our own hearts. The combustible matter is in us, though the flame may be blown up by some outward causes. Matthew Henry

20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. **23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.** Col 2:20-23