

**The Bible Doesn't Say That**  
***"Cleanliness is Next to Godliness"***  
**Matthew 15:16-20**

**Matthew 15** <sup>17</sup> "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

**1. In order to fully understand, we must look at the context.**

**Read Matthew 15:1-10**

**Exodus 30** <sup>18</sup> "Make a bronze basin, with its bronze stand, for washing. Place it between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. <sup>19</sup> Aaron and his sons are to wash their hands and feet with water from it. <sup>20</sup> Whenever they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water so that they will not die.

**Matthew 15** "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules."

**Matthew 15** <sup>11</sup> What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."

**2. Moral defilement is a spiritual problem, not a physical one.**

**Matthew 15** <sup>17</sup> "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.

**1 Samuel 16** <sup>7</sup> The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

**Luke 6** <sup>5</sup> A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

**Matthew 15** <sup>9</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

**3. We need to guard our hearts against the world's demoralization.**

**Proverbs 4** <sup>23</sup> Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

**2 Timothy 3** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— <sup>5</sup> having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.