

### Clean or Unclean?

Our relationship to God is a matter of the heart. People today are very concerned about having clean hands. Many people carry packages of wipes or hand sanitizer. Keeping your hands clean is good, right? (Invite kids to quickly clean their hands using one of the products.)

The Bible tells about some Pharisees who came to Jesus. They liked to be bossy about the rules. "We've noticed that some of your disciples are eating without washing their hands," they told Jesus. "Why don't they follow our tradition of washing their hands before they eat?"

"You bunch of phonies!" Jesus responded. "Isaiah must have been talking about you when he said, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.' "

Then Jesus called the people to gather around. "All of you listen. It's not what goes into your body that makes you unclean, it is the bad words that come out of your mouth. Out of your hearts come evil thoughts, greed, cheating, and envy. This is what makes you unclean."

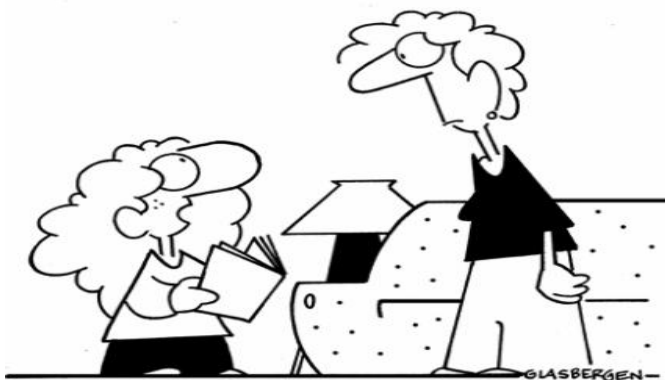
The Pharisees were more worried about having clean hands than they were about having a clean heart. Are we any different? We work hard to keep our hands clean, but do we guard our hearts against evil thoughts? What kinds of books do we read? What kinds of TV shows and movies do we watch? What kind of language comes out of our mouth?

Clean hands or a clean heart, which is more important?

God, forgive us for our unclean thoughts. Create in us clean hearts to honor You.

In Jesus' name, amen

~ Sermon4kids.com



"This book is defective. I tap the page and nothing happens!"

### Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (NIV)

#### That Which Defiles

**7** The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup> and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed.

<sup>3</sup> (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders.

<sup>4</sup> When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

<sup>5</sup> 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 defiled hands?"

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'

<sup>8</sup> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."

<sup>14</sup> Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this.

<sup>15</sup> Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

<sup>21</sup> For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

<sup>23</sup> All these evils come from inside and defile a person."



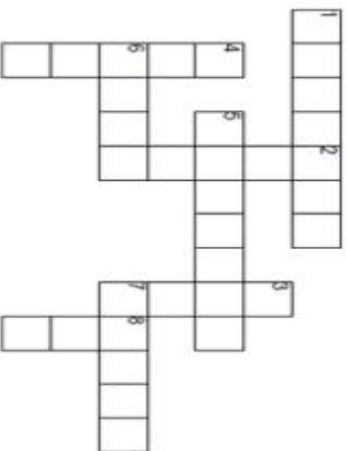
# Clean or Unclean?

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?" Mark 7:5 (NIV)

Based on Mark 7:1-7, 14-15, 21-23 (NIV)



Mark 7:1-8;  
14-15; 21-23



## ACROSS

- To express love and adoration toward God
- Something that is dirty or soiled
- The two edges of flesh around the mouth
- The center of your emotion, I love you with all my \_\_\_\_\_.

## DOWN

- The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
- To make something clean using soap and water
- The accepted way that things should be done
- To take food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow

C A B P B U A T Z E G M I J O  
 I P H A R I S E E S A R V W M  
 G E Y L D L N V Z A A T O L Z  
 R U N C L E A N Z N C C I V I  
 D K L Y S E L Z T E F H S N J  
 F U N D V O X I W W A L E W G  
 K J N X I G Y Q P O O G S R P  
 F A Y W A S H S M S R E K M S  
 H Z L L A K C H B B X S C V S  
 L H Y P O C R I T E S I H T O  
 H F Q U Z S Y P P U Y S R I H  
 S O O I G U J E Q L D A X Z P  
 B M N O F G L A W X E H F G F  
 T P Z O D S P Q R H M S V I H  
 N G X J R U L E S A P I B K K

LAW	WORSHIP	UNCLEAN	FOOD	TEACHERS
HANDS	HEARTS	PHARISEES	HYPOCRITES	DISCIPLES
RULES	EATING	LIPS	HONOR	WASH