

A Ruined World

Pollution

Bible examples

Psalm 24:4 “He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.” → Polluted character

Deuteronomy 5:7 “You shall have no other gods before me.” → Polluted worship

How much pollution does it take to ruin something?

Division

“These [pollutants] are always wedge-shaped.” – Cornelius Plantinga

Bible examples

Ps 86:11, Ezk 11:19-26, Ps 24:4, Mt 5:8 all speak of an “undivided heart”

Divide between our proper loyalties

Sin of false worship divides us from God

Sin of adultery divides us from our spouse

Divides us from each other

Sin of selfishness divides us from the appropriate attitudes we should have towards others

Divides us from ourselves

Disintegration, the loss of integrity. Not being whole.

Author and novelist Sylvia Fraser speaks of her father: “A man of proper and regular habits – a Christian man who didn’t smoke or drink... who helped with the grocery shopping, who never took the Lord’s name in vain. A polite and neighborly man, who kept his snow shoveled, his leaves raked, his bills paid.” He was also a child molester.

“We live with character inconsistencies by sealing them off from one another, like an ocean liner can sometimes keep sailing, even when damaged, if the crew seals off the flooded compartments.” -

God is one!

Corruption (and Futility)

Hope

Waiting because of Christ

Freedom

Being in Christ makes you free!

So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed! – John 8:36

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God – Rom 6:22

We can be unpolluted, undivided, and restored to our correct purpose.

An absolutely encouraging parable on pollution in reverse

He told them another parable. ‘The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.’ – Matthew 13:33

Greater is he who is in you, than he who is in the world. – John 4:4

Questions for Personal Study

1. How is sin like pollution?
2. How can just a little sin mess up something good?
3. How does sin divide? Can you think of examples?
4. How is Jesus’ parable, the yeast of the kingdom, playing out today?