

Understanding Sin Matthew 15:1-20

How does your understanding of sin affect your relationship with Jesus?

- I. Sin out there
 - A. The tradition of the elders (v. 1-2; Ex. 16:29)
 - B. The hand washing approach to sin (v. 2; Ex. 30:17-21)
 - C. The result of this approach (v. 3-9)
- II. Sin in here
 - A. The heart focused approach to sin (v. 10-11, 17-20)
 - B. The offense of this approach (v. 12-16)
 - C. The result of this approach (v. 19-20; Jer. 17:9)

Application Guide:

1. In what ways do you pretend (hypocrisy) not to sin? How does your pretending affect your relationship with Jesus and others?
2. Why is the distinction between 'sin out there' and 'sin in here' so important? What happens when you exclusively focus on the sin in the world and forget that the sins of the heart defile a person?
3. How should Jesus' teaching in this passage shape the way you raise children? How should it shape the way you live and relate in the church?