

AVOID RELIGION

Becoming Message Series Week 6

Matthew 15:1-20

July 13, 2025

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Why do we need spiritual cleansing?

1. We disobey the commands of God. (Matthew 15:1-6)

2. We are hypocrites. We appear to be more spiritual than we are. (Matthew 15:7-9)

3. We are blind to our sin. (Matthew 15:10-14)

4. We have a heart problem. (Matthew 15:15-20)

“Man’s greatest need, then, is not to try to clean his hands or fix his life on the outside; man’s greatest need is a changed heart on the inside. Holiness begins in the heart, and only Jesus can produce this kind of change.”

David Platt, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Matthew*, B&H Publishing Group, Brentwood, TN, 2013, p. 137.

How do we experience spiritual cleansing?

1. Through a once-and-for-all cleansing by the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ. (Titus 3:4-6)

“But Christ—his righteousness, his purity, his perfectly clean hands and head and heart—dwelling in our hearts through faith changes everything. What can cure a sin-diseased heart? Faith. Faith in Jesus. What can wash away all those unclean words? Faith. Faith in Jesus.”

Douglas Sean O'Donnell, *Matthew*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2013, p. 424.

2. Through ongoing confession of our sin. (1 John 1:9)

“The sad reality is that alone, none of us is righteous. None of us measures up. None of us has any power whatsoever to keep the law so consistently as to achieve acceptance by a completely holy God. So it was essential that Jesus would come and live in a way that none of us could ever live, to die the death that we all deserve to die, and to rise, defeating sin and death. Hope is never to be found in your performance, no matter what actions you are able to point to. Sin is your infection, and without the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is also your demise. It is inescapable and morally debilitating, and it will lead to your death.

So abandon hope in your own righteousness. Abandon the delusion that somehow you can measure up. Run to the place where hope can be found and throw yourself again today on the grace of Jesus. He did what you could never do so that you would be welcomed into the arms of a righteous God and be fully accepted even though, in reality, you are anything but righteous.”

Paul David Tripp, *New Morning Mercies*,
Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2014, May 14.



Communion

What is it?

Communion is a visible representation of the Good News of the death of Christ for our sins. It reminds us of Christ's death and the glorious hope of His return. The bread and wine symbolize Christ's Body and blood.

Who can participate?

All who have received Jesus Christ by trusting in Him alone for forgiveness of their sins are welcome to participate, regardless of church affiliation.

The ABCs of receiving Christ as your Savior:

Admit you are a sinner and deserve God's judgment.

(Romans 3:23, 6:23)

Believe that Jesus Christ, through His death (and resurrection), paid the penalty for your sin, so that you can be forgiven and have a relationship with Him now and forever. (Romans 5:8, 10:9-10)

Confess that Jesus is your Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9-10)

How will we be served?

Ushers will serve you both the bread and cup while you are seated. Wait to partake of the bread and juice until you are directed to do so.

