

Playing Church

Untransformed Leaders and Church Members

Titus 1:15-16

A Lack of Purity (Titus 1:15) The word defiled literally means to stain. Spaghetti sauce will defile a clear plastic Tupperware bowl. False teaching stains. Those playing church are defiled inwardly.

a. An Untransformed Mind. What you feed grows and what you starve dies. This is why I believe it is so important to limit your news intake, your social media intake, and increase your bible intake. This used to be a problem in youth ministry with secular music. Paul tells the church at Roman to: *"...present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* How do we stop craving the desires of the old creation when we have been born into a new creation through Christ? Paul is telling Titus that these leaders were never born again! They gave lip service to God, but their minds still thought the same as a lost person. The Bible is our main discipleship tool that transforms us. If you want to mature in Christ, The Word of God is your main instrument for maturity. A.W. Tozer states: "Every man is as close to God as he wants to be."

b. An Unaffected Conscience. If the Holy Spirit is not convicting you of sin, you are not born again! John 10:27 makes this clear: "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." There is a big difference between conviction of sin and condemnation because of sin. According to Romans we have all sinned, we're condemned, bond for Hell. I praise God that the Holy Spirit has convicted us of this sin and we've turned to Jesus for salvation. A religious person will say, "God's going to kill me for what I've done." A person with a relationship with Christ will say, "Look at what I've done, I better run to God the Father for guidance, forgiveness, and renewal." John 14:26 *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."*

The only thing that makes us pure and righteous before God is the blood of Jesus that was shed on our behalf!

A Profession With No Possession (Titus 1:16) Those playing church are defiled outwardly.

Although we are saved by grace through faith, our outward actions reveal our inward transformation. John MacArthur notes, "When a person is pure in heart and mind, his perspectives on all things are pure, and that inner purity produces outer purity"

Jesus stated and is recorded in Mark 7:20-23 *“And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”*

James speaks of the fruit of true salvation reflecting God’s transformation by your service. Recorded in James 2:26 he states: *“For the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”* He not saying we’re saved by works, but saved to work for Christ. A defiled person will not and can serve God. It is not and will not be there desire until they become born again.

Application:

1. Settle in your heart that you are truly born again. (Romans 8:14-16) *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”*
2. Pray and ask God to help you to have a thirst for the Word of God and to thirst for spending time with Him.
3. The Holy Spirit longs to serve Christ through the local church, how will you serve at Oak Hill Baptist Church?