

AA26. Not Touching That Which is Unclean.

We are not to touch that which is unclean.

This precept is derived from His Word (blessed is He):

Key New Testament Scriptures

2 Corinthians 6:17

Therefore ADONAI says, "Go out from their midst; separate yourselves; don't even touch what is unclean. Then I myself will receive you."

1 Thessalonians 4:7

For God did not call us to live an unclean life but a holy one.

James 1:27

The religious observance that God the Father considers pure and faultless is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being contaminated by the world.

Additional New Testament Scriptures

Matthew 15:18-20

Mark 7:15-23

John 15:19, 17:14-17

Romans 12:2, 14:14

Related New Testament Mitzvot

AA04 Seeking to Be Both Inwardly and Outwardly Clean

AA12 Not Being Contaminated by the World and Worldly Standards

DA43 Not Calling Any Person Common or Unclean

DA67 Not Having Fellowship with Ungodly People

DA74 Not Associating with a Brother who is committing immoral sin

GB49 Not Obligating Ourselves to Worldly Rules and Teachings

GB56 Turning Away from Ungodly Speech

Supportive Tanakh Scriptures

Leviticus 11:8

You are not to eat meat from these or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you

Leviticus 15:19-27

If a woman has a discharge, and the discharge from her body is blood, she will be in her state of niddah for seven days. Whoever touches her will be unclean until evening. Everything she lies on or sits on in her state of niddah will be unclean. Whoever touches her bed is to wash his

clothes and bathe himself in water; he will be unclean until evening. Whoever touches anything she sits on is to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water; he will be unclean until evening. Whether he is on the bed or on something she sits on, when he touches it, he will be unclean until evening. If a man goes to bed with her, and her menstrual flow touches him, he will be unclean seven days; and every bed he lies on will be unclean. If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days not during her period, or if her discharge lasts beyond the normal end of her period, then throughout the time she is having an unclean discharge she will be as when she is in niddah- she is unclean. Every bed she lies on at any time while she is having her discharge will be for her like the bed she uses during her time of niddah; and everything she sits on will be unclean with uncleanness like that of her time of niddah. Whoever touches those things will be unclean; he is to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water; he will be unclean until evening.

Numbers 19:11-13

Anyone who touches a corpse, no matter whose dead body it is, will be unclean for seven days. He must purify himself with [these ashes] on the third and seventh days; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself the third and seventh days, he will not be clean. Anyone who touches a corpse, no matter whose dead body it is, and does not purify himself has defiled the tabernacle of ADONAI. That person will be cut off from Isra'el, because the water for purification was not sprinkled on him. He will be unclean; his uncleanness is still on him.

Deuteronomy 14:8

.. while the pig is unclean for you because, although it has a separate hoof, it doesn't chew the cud. You are not to eat meat from these or touch their carcasses.

Isaiah 52:11

Leave! Leave! Get out of there! Don't touch anything unclean! Get out from inside it, and be clean, you who carry ADONAI's temple equipment.

Lamentations 4:14-15

They wander in the streets like the blind; they are so polluted with blood that nobody is able even to touch their clothing. "Keep away! Unclean!" people shout at them, "Keep away! Away! Don't touch us!" They flee, to wander here and there; but no nation allows them to stay.

Ezekiel 18:6

He doesn't eat on the mountains or raise his eyes toward the idols of the house of Isra'el; he doesn't defile his neighbor's wife or touch a woman during her time of menstrual impurity

Comment

The words "Clean" and "unclean" in the *Tanach* typically refer to physical objects, animals, or persons who have recently given birth, are unhealthy, or are dead. The one who touches any of these becomes ceremonially unclean for a defined period of time and is restricted as to what he or she can and cannot do. The words "Clean" and "unclean" in the New Testament have that meaning as well but have added to it being clean and unclean of heart and spirit.

There is a saying derived from Scripture that we are to be in the world but not of the world. Its meaning is that while we live “in the world” and minister “in the world,” we are not to “touch” the spiritually unclean things of the world in a way that they will rub off on us and make us “of the world” as are they (see 1 Corinthians 5:9-10).

Related Mitzvot in Volumes 1 & 2

A10 Ritual Purification, Cleanness, Separation & Health

A13 Being Pure in Heart

A24 Being Clean of Spirit as Well as of Body

K01 Creatures We Are Allowed to Eat and Forbidden to Eat

P06 Priests Ministering While Spiritually Unclean

P07 Levitical Priests Being Near a Dead Body