

Keep Thyself Pure

When the Apostle Paul instructed the young evangelist Timothy, saying, “neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22), he sets forth an admonition to take special care that one is not defiled as a result of taking part in the sins of others.

Two terms which deserve consideration:

(1) Keep, i.e., to guard, keeping the eye on. It denotes giving vigilant attention to purity, thus

(2) Purity, i.e., pure from defilement, not contaminated.

The admonition to “keep thyself pure” requires a standard by which one lives: as defilement and contamination are a result of what one does. As “Evil companionships corrupt good morals” (1 Corinthians 15:33), there is of necessity a standard outlining what constitutes purity, and what constitutes defilement.

Pure: “The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart: The commandment of Jehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes” (Psa. 19:8).

Defile: “But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: these are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not the man” (Matt. 15:18-20).

Those who do “not defile their garments...they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy” (Revelation 3:4). ret