



Thinking Like a Christian January-March 2021 Zooming in on the Cross
28th February 2021

8. The Cleansing of the Cross

Numbers 19:16-19: *A picture of guilt*

How, in this passage, does someone become 'unclean'?

How, in this passage, can he become 'clean' again?

Sin makes us unclean. The 'clean and unclean' laws of the Old Testament are there to picture for us what is wrong with us, and what Jesus did on the cross.

Matthew 8:1-3 What Jesus wants to do

The central issue of human life is, how can we be clean? How can we ever be fit for the presence of God?

Leviticus 16:1-2 how not to come into the Holy Place

Leviticus 9:22-10:3

What did Moses and Aaron, and Nadab and Abihu, do the same? What did they do differently?

What did God, in response, do the same? What did he do differently?

A bit about guilt

Guilt before God (we *are* guilty)

Because we have broken his law

Guilt in our conscience (we *feel* guilty)

Because his law is written on everyone's hearts (Romans 2:15)

The two are not the same, but they are connected.

The Cleansing of Guilt

Hebrews 9:11-14

The Old Testament tabernacle and Holy Place were copies of the heavenly things (v23)

Jesus went in by his own blood (v12)

Because his blood deals with guilt.

Jesus' blood is the *only* way for guilt – before God and in our consciences – to be taken away.

Because God is just

We can't separate the sinner from the sin.

Blood must be shed for the judgment on sin to be satisfied.

So when confronted by a person who has sinned, without Jesus' blood:

either We must condone the sin

or We must condemn the sinner

But Jesus blood purifies our consciences, v14. The sin has been condemned in the condemnation of Christ; the sinner is forgiven.

The cross is the only thing on earth that really deals with guilt.

Guilt and forgiveness

In each conversation... who's right?

Reggie and Ronnie are talking about something Reggie has done.

Reggie: I feel so terrible. It was an unforgiveable thing to do; I'm a useless Christian. I can't see any way for God to love me now.

Ronnie: Don't be so harsh on yourself. It wasn't so bad; I'm sure God understands that you're only human, and you were just being yourself. And anyway, it wasn't really your fault.

Arabella and Ariana have discovered that a Christian friend has started sleeping with a boyfriend.

Arabella: Sex outside marriage is wrong. How could she? I can't be friends with someone who's done that.

Ariana: How dare you reject her like that? Different people have different views on these things; she really loves him; and after all, what God cares about is that people love each other.

Bobby and Beatrice are planning an evangelistic event.

Bobby: The main thing is to focus on God's love. He accepts and values all people for what they are.

Beatrice: No, the main thing is to tell people that God wants to make this world better, so we should condemn injustice and try hard to make ethical choices in life.

Terence and Tatiana are not Christians and are discussing a Christian friend.

Terence: He's so bigoted – did you hear what he said about how it's a sin to be gay?

Tatiana: I thought he said God loves everyone – so I'm sure he doesn't think gay sex is wrong