

The Trouble with Nature

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 15.

B. The Bible has a wonderful frankness about the way it talks about human life without being vulgar or prudish.

II. Unavoidable discharges concerning men.

A. Discharges involving certain unavoidable diseases.

1. The diseases were to be cleansed.
2. After these discharges stopped, the person was to present an offering.
3. God never sets aside the requirement of an offering, underscoring the seriousness of sin.

B. Sexual discharges.

1. This is dealing with marriage sex.
2. There is nothing here to suggest that marriage sex is wrong--it merely shows that there is pollution in our nature.
3. Man is a fallen creature, and his nature must be dealt with appropriately. Even in the act of sex, there is a fallen nature involved.

C. All these things written beforehand were written for our instruction.

D. There are no unclean foods.

E. There is discharge from the moral life.

1. The evil nature within is so subtle that it slips out without us even knowing.
2. These wicked discharges must be dealt with appropriately.
3. The believer must bathe and wash himself.
4. The people could become unclean or cut off from their people.
 - a. To be cut off from fellowship with the people.
 - b. To become unclean was not as bad--it meant to be out of fellowship with the Lord.

c. When one becomes aware of having said something unkind or wrong, he can repent and experience the new day of God's forgiving grace.

d. The blood of Jesus given on the believer's behalf is also necessary for restoration. God has poured out His wrath against sin--He is free to forgive because Christ took the punishment. (I John 5)

e. Believing this word cleans our own conscience as well. The water cleans the conscience. (I John 1:9)

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that the Old Testament teaches that sex is a dirty act?

2. With What kind of moral discharges have you struggled? In what situations do you find the most strength to deal with them?

3. Why is important to know the means of forgiveness on a daily basis? Memorize I John 1:9 and write it out below.
