

We Do Not Touch Dogs

We live in the world, but we are not of it. We have to understand that. Whoever belongs to our Master lives in the world as a witness, as a light. We live in community and conform to the culture that our Father is establishing through His Holy Spirit in us. Lots of people live near us, and that is wonderful; we are a light to them. They are ignorant and don't know what they are doing, so we have to be a light to them. We don't conform to their culture (Rom 12:2).

We heed the instructions that were given to Moses. Whoever is led by the Spirit is not under the Law (Rom 8:14; 6:14). We are not under the Law, but we recognize the instructions of what is good and what is not good, what is clean to eat and what is not clean to eat. He wants a healthy people. The world accepts all kinds of unclean things. That doesn't mean we don't talk to them. We don't shun them, but we shun the unclean things they accept, though not in a way that would insult them.

Dogs are the most unclean animals that have ever existed on the planet earth. But unclean human beings love them and even kiss them. You can see Christian books with pictures of children kissing dogs, letting dogs lick all over them. They don't show what that dog was licking right before it licked their faces.

What people allow their dogs to do in the neighborhood they wouldn't allow humans to do. They let their dogs have their bowel movement right there on the grass and even on the sidewalks where we and our children walk, and they don't clean it up. So are such people going to go to the nations? Of course not. But we still love them; they are ignorant. We used to be ignorant ourselves, but now we have seen the light, and so we don't let our children even be around dogs, let alone touch them.

Actually, if you handle a dog you ought to take a bath and wash all over and take your clothes off and wash them, because a dog is unclean. There is no telling what kind of diseases a dog carries, because of their habits. Goats are clean. When you feed a goat,

if you drop something on the ground, they won't even eat it. Goats are made for man, to provide milk and meat. But dogs are made to clean up the carrion from the face of the earth. It is the same with fish — some are clean and some are unclean, but we need them both. Some fish clean the pond, living off the unclean things on the bottom. Our Father made them for that purpose, but they are not food. The Law indicates which fish are for food, and all food is clean.

There are certain things that our Father created that are not food, therefore it is not permissible for God's holy people to eat them. No matter whether someone puts it before you, you would never eat pig. They are incredibly nasty and make people look like pigs if they eat enough of them. There have been studies on that, and wise doctors take people off of it. But people love pig because it tastes good. But we don't eat pigs, and we don't eat buzzards, or snakes, or snails, or even monkey brains, or anything of that nature.

We have learned not to conform to the patterns and designs and fashions of the world, whether in regard to food or clothing or anything else. We wear what is practical and healthy and modest. That is all that is required of us.

If you don't discipline your child, you hate your child. God says that you hate your child if you don't discipline him. If you want to have troubles with God, then don't discipline your child. Likewise, if you allow your children to pet a dog, that also means that you hate your child. You hate a child that you allow danger to come to like that. Let's not do that anymore. Never ever allow your child, who is under your authority, to touch something unclean. All you have to do is read the instructions that we have in the scriptures.

We know the character of dogs, and what our Father made dogs for. But perverted man has made dog "man's best friend" and bred them to perversion. Mankind is sick. All they live for is those little dogs. I think there is something greater to live for than those little dogs. Some people love their dogs more than they love their children.

So I want to make this clear, because there are a lot of dogs in the neighborhood. We do not touch dogs, and we do not allow our children to touch dogs. There are dogs next door to us in various places, but we don't pet the dogs, and we don't let them jump on us, but we also don't offend their owners. They come to understand that we live according to another standard, and if they want to pet their dogs, that is fine. We do not criticize them for it.

There is a way not to offend our neighbors, but still help them get the picture that our children don't pet dogs.

ha-êmeq — But that is not the place to teach your children about clean and unclean — when you are standing there, talking to your neighbor. You should have already taught them that at home, during preparation time, so that they understand the difference between clean and unclean animals. Otherwise, we will have to put a leash on our children, so you can just yank them back when they get too close to the dog. But normally, they should be trained children that already know to avoid dogs. And they should be standing by your side where you can guard them.

So let's love our children enough to not allow them to pet dogs. That is our standard. It is not just a tradition; it is the instruction of the Torah. I don't know where we will end up if we allow our children to pet dogs. I don't want to offend our neighbors, but I would rather offend a neighbor than to let my child touch an unclean animal.

ha-êmeq — It is easy for those boundaries to start breaking down, and then if we don't sense that separation from unclean things, pretty soon we will be eating pork. We would be like the Christians who acknowledge that it says that in the Bible, but they don't think our Father really cares that much about it anymore. "Oh, that was in the olden days when pigs used to eat bad stuff, but now they eat a lot better stuff, so we can go ahead and eat pigs." That is usually what people say. And dogs used to be dirtier, but now they go to the beauty parlor. That is probably how they would justify losing that sense of separation from unclean things.

A lot of people couldn't give up their dog. They would rather not have eternal life than to give up their dog. This has happened many times. One man kept his dog tied up for two months in Vista until he finally left, because he didn't want to give up his dog.

David Zerubbabel — I remember being repulsed years ago when my own dog would find something dead, or where something dead had been, and then roll around in it. It would take great delight in rolling around in that place on the ground where a dead animal had been. And then you just give your dog a bath and make it pretty again, but the next time there is an opportunity, it is going to do the same thing again. So that should have said something to me then, but somehow it didn't. I continued to have a dog, but just tried to keep it restrained from doing something unclean. I did not acknowledge that it is the nature of a dog to do that, and it is connected to its purpose.

There is a nature book here that has a picture of wild dogs in Africa, and it is clear what their purpose is. They are scavengers. But somehow, men have taken them and interbred them and trained them to do different things, because they have hunting skills. Then it became more perverted to making competitions, to watch them fight or race. And now man has bred them to cuddle with. It is the continual wearing down of the instinctive law of our Father. Noah understood the difference between clean and unclean, even though he was of the nations. He knew to bring seven of each of the clean animals into the ark.

You can't change a dog's nature. Our Father made them with that nature, and it is indispensable for its purpose. Horses and other like creatures are unclean to eat, but not to touch. But dogs are both unclean to eat and unclean to touch because of their nature. Cats are different from dogs. Although they are unclean to eat, and we don't want to make pets out of them, they have a cleaner nature and can be useful to have on our farms for the sake of eating mice.

But you can see how gradually, creeping things come in, and then we won't be set apart anymore. We are not isolated, but insulated. The Word gives us the protection of peace, or we would have to live on the side of a mountain somewhere, and that would be the worst thing that has ever happened. But we have to maintain our character and our dignity as the sons of God who are led by the Spirit as we live among the gentiles. We don't live like the gentiles, we live among them.

ha-êmeq — I am sure if we got a magnifying glass and did experiments on dog hair, and showed the vile things on dog hair, then we would say, "Oh,

okay, now I can see why our Father said that. Now I will go ahead and obey.” But we just want to obey His commandments and live.

It talks about clean and unclean animals in Deuteronomy 14 and Leviticus 11. It is our instruction, and it is good instruction. We are not under the Law anymore, because we are led by the Spirit. Christians say that they are not under the Law anymore, but are they led by the Spirit? What spirit are they led by, since now they can eat pigs? But they don't eat buzzards, and I don't know why, since they're in the same category as dogs and pigs. “Well, I don't like buzzards,” they might say. “Oh, you just need to acquire a taste for them.” We were just as ignorant as they are. We are not trying to make fun. We can make fun of ourselves, but now we know the difference. We are enlightened; we understand. The Word of God has given us understanding and revelation, just as in salvation and everything else. It teaches us now how to live (1 Cor 2:14-16).

Our Master never declared all food clean. Food is already clean. He didn't have to declare all food clean; some translator added that in Mk 7:19. Some translations don't have it. The passage isn't even talking about food anyway, but about eating with unwashed hands.

So if you let your children touch dogs, what you are doing is hurting your children. You think you love them, but you're really hating them. Some people say, “I love my child so much that I would never spank him.” If you love your child, you will discipline him. You hate your child if you do not discipline him, because you are hurting your child; you are actually destroying your child. A child who has not been disciplined grows up disrespecting his parents. A child that is disciplined knows that his parents love him, because God has put this knowledge in his heart. A child knows you love him when you discipline him.

Our Father disciplines all whom He loves (Rev 3:19; Heb 12:6). If He just left us to do our own thing we would know He didn't love us. You know that your parents love

you, because they discipline you when you are disobedient. That is greater than common sense, isn't it? It is even common sense in the world, but the world has gone haywire.

ha-êmeq — Our Father says what He means. If a husband really has a strong feeling about something, but when he is not there his wife just lets it go, then the child notices that obviously, the wife doesn't think it is so important what the husband says. It is the same with us. Our Father says, "Don't touch that." He wants us to really have a separation from the unclean. But if we say, "Oh, I know it is in the Bible, but sometimes it is okay..." then the children will learn not to respect our Father because we don't take His Word seriously.