Titus 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

Analysis

Unto the pure all things are pure (πάντα καθαρὰ τοῖς καθαροῖς, panta kathara tois katharois)—refers to Old Testament ceremonial laws about clean/unclean foods, not moral license. Jesus declared all foods clean (Mark 7:19); the kingdom is not eating and drinking (Romans 14:17). The ritually pure person isn't defiled by ritual impurity because Christ's work supersedes ceremonial law.

But unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure—those μεμιασμένοις καὶ ἀπίστοις (memiasmenois kai apistois, defiled and faithless) find nothing clean because **even their mind and conscience is defiled**. νοῦς (nous, mind) and συνείδησις (syneidēsis, conscience) are corrupted. The problem isn't external ritual but internal condition. Unbelief pollutes everything; faith purifies all. The false teachers inverted this, making external ritual more important than internal reality.

Historical Context

Judaizers imposed dietary laws on Gentile Christians, creating two-tier Christianity (clean/unclean foods, circumcised/uncircumcised). Paul's principle liberates from food laws while emphasizing genuine heart-purity. Romans 14 and 1 Corinthians 8-10 develop this theology more fully. The defiled conscience can't be cleaned by ritual but only by Christ's blood (Hebrews 9:14).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Do you trust Christ's finished work to cleanse you, or do you add ritualistic practices as if His work were insufficient?
2. How does your internal heart condition (pure versus defiled mind and conscience) affect your entire worldview?
3. What modern legalisms function like food laws—external requirements masking internal corruption?

Interlinear Text

πάντα	μὲν	καθαρόν	τοῖς	καθαρόν	τοῖς	δὲ
all things	are pure	Unto the pure	G3588	Unto the pure	G3588	but
G3956	G3303	G2513		G2513		G1161

μεμίανται	καὶ	ἀπίστοις	οὐδὲν	καθαρόν	ἀλλὰ
is defiled	and	unbelieving	is nothing	Unto the pure	but
G3392	G2532	G571	G3762	G2513	G235

μεμίανται	αὐτῶν	καὶ	ὁ	νοῦς	καὶ	ἡ	συνείδησις
is defiled	their	and	G3588	mind	and	G3588	conscience
G3392	G846	G2532		G3563	G2532		G4893

Additional Cross-References

Romans 14:14 (Parallel theme): I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Romans 14:20 (Parallel theme): For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

1 Corinthians 10:23 (Parallel theme): All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

Matthew 15:18 (Parallel theme): But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

Romans 14:23 (Faith): And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (Parallel theme): Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Acts 10:15 (Parallel theme): And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

1 Corinthians 8:7 (Parallel theme): Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

Hebrews 10:22 (Faith): Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

1 Corinthians 10:25 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever is sold in the shambles, that eat, asking no question for conscience sake: