WHO AND WHAT IS CLEAN

Titus 1:15 (CEB) Everything is clean to those who are clean, but nothing is clean to those who are corrupt and without faith. Instead, their mind and conscience are corrupted.

Three Greek Words

*“katharizo”* to cleanse or clean (30), to purify (1)

*“katharismos” cleansing* (2), purification (5)

*“katharos”* clean (12), clear (3), pure (10)

From Strongs Exhaustive NASB Concordance

All the verses containing the word clean or pure that I will use today to explain Titus 1:15 will use one of these three Greek words, whether it is translated by a form of clean or cleanse or by a form of pure or purify. I will tend to use the words clean or cleanse because they better fit the context and meaning and because that is the primary meaning of the word.

Who Is Clean

John 13:10&11 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters not adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Titus 3:4&5 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

What Is Clean – Context

Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.

Titus 1:13b&14 Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.

What Is Clean According to Jesus

Mark 7:14&15 Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

Mark 7:17-19 After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. “Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of their body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

The Reminder to Peter

Acts 11:1-3 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Acts 11:4-7 Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’”

Acts 11:8&9 “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’”

The word translated *“unclean”* is *“akathartos”* the negative of the word meaning clean.

The Meaning of Titus 1:15

“To the clean all things are clean” means that to those who have been saved, no food is “unclean,” something we should not eat.

“But to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is clean,” means that if we are not right with God, nothing we do will please God.

Luke 11:39-41 Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? But now as for what is inside you – be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.”

“In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted,” means that both what they believe is wrong and what their conscience tells them is wrong is wrong.

Paul’s Description of the Circumcision Group

Titus 1:15 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

The circumcision group claimed to be following God faithfully by requiring obedience to the laws given in the Old Testament, but by rejecting what Jesus taught about salvation by faith and insisting that keeping the law was both a part of how a person was saved and how a Christian pleased God they were denying what Jesus taught.

John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

“Detestable” means an object of disgust, an abomination. (Vine’s)

“Disobedient” translates a Greek word meaning “Unwilling to be persuaded” (Vine’s).

Their insistence on keeping the Old Testament law as part of how a person is saved and how a person pleases God after they are saved makes them unfit for doing anything good.

Does That Mean It Is Sin to Keep Old Testament Rules?

Acts 21:20 When they heard this; they praised God. Then they said to Paul: “You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law.”

Colossians 2:16&17 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Romans 14:1&2 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables.

Romans 14:5 One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind.

Things to Remember

We become clean in God’s sight when we are born again, through the “washing of rebirth.”

“Nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them.” “Jesus declared all foods clean.”

Keeping Old Testament rules not repeated in the New Testament is a matter of personal choice and we should not judge those who choose differently than us.