



A graphic design featuring several overlapping circles in muted colors (taupe, slate blue, mustard yellow, and dark brown) on a light beige background. In the top left, there is a hand-drawn scribble of dark brown lines. On the right side, there are two hand-drawn, jagged dark brown lines. The text 'HARD TO HEAR' is centered within a slate blue circle, and 'HARDER TO IGNORE' is centered within a larger taupe circle.

HARD
TO HEAR

**HARDER
TO IGNORE**

¹Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, ²"Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat."

³Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God? ⁴For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks

Matthew

15:1-6

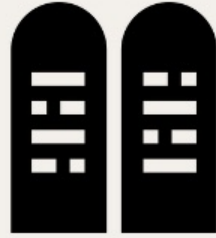
NLT



disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' ⁵But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' ⁶In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition.

Matthew 15:1-6 NLT





Commands of Scripture Over
the Convenience of Tradition



⁷You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote,

⁸ 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'"

Matthew

15:7-9

NLT





Inner Purity Over
Outward Praise





Although everything looks good on the **outside**,
there is no place for **relationship** on the inside.

¹⁰Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand.

¹¹It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth."

¹²Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?"

Matthew 15:10-14 NLT



¹³Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, ¹⁴so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch."

Matthew 15:10-14 NLT





Personal Holiness Over
Public Hypocrisy



The law of God was not to **oppress** God's people; it was meant to keep them **free**. The traditions that they were adding were the very thing that was keeping them in **bondage**.



¹⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Explain to us the parable that says people aren't defiled by what they eat."

¹⁶"Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked.

¹⁷"Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. ¹⁸But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. ¹⁹For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. ²⁰These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you."

Matthew

15:15-20

NLT





Clean Heart Over
Contaminated Hands



Matthew 12:34b NIV

For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.





What is the **Remedy**
for an Impure Heart?



What is the remedy for an impure heart?

Regular Repentance



⁸If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.

1 John 1:8-10 NLT



Psalm 139:23-24 NLT



- ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you,
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.





What is the remedy for an impure heart?

**Consistent Exposure
to the Light**




⁵This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. ⁶So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth.

⁷But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:5-7 NLT





What is the remedy for an impure heart?

Cultivating an
Undivided Heart



¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

Psalm 86:11 NIV



⁹The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

2 Chronicles

16:9a

NLT



**What remedy
do you need to
apply to your
heart today?**

