

Doctrine of the Touch

1. The first usage of the word touch in Scripture is in a negative way. Adam and Eve were told not to eat of the forbidden fruit or to touch the tree that contained it upon the penalty of death.
 - *Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

2. There is an inappropriate sexual touch that requires the restraining hand of God. A king named Abimelech was kept from touching Sarah by God's restraining grace. Boaz, a type of Christ, restrained his workers from touching Ruth.
 - *Genesis 20:6 And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.*
 - *Ruth 2:9 Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? And when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.*

3. So great is the holiness of God, the children of Israel were instructed not to come near the mountain where God had promised to come. The people for violating the will of the Lord would be death.
 - *Exodus 19:12 And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: 13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.*

4. It was the will of the Lord that His people not handle a rotting carcass lest there be a ceremonial uncleanness which had to be atoned for.
 - *Leviticus 5:2 Or if a soul touch any unclean thing, whether it be a carcass of an unclean beast, or a carcass of unclean cattle, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and if it be hidden from him; he also shall be unclean, and guilty.*
 - *Leviticus 7:21 Moreover the soul that shall touch any unclean thing, as the uncleanness of man, or any unclean beast, or any abominable unclean thing, and eat of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which pertain unto the LORD, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.*

5. While much touching is negative there are positive touches in the Scripture. In the act of making atonement for sin the one who offered the sacrifice was to touch it in an act of identification. A spiritual story was thereby told. A substitute had been made for sin.

- *Leviticus 6:27 Whatsoever shall touch the flesh thereof shall be holy: and when there is sprinkled of the blood thereof upon any garment, thou shalt wash that whereon it was sprinkled in the holy place.*
6. Those whom God has put into positions of leadership over His people He moves to protect. Though King Saul was not a worthy man it was still God's will that He not be harmed.
- *1 Chronicles 16:22 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.*
 - *Psalms 105:15 Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.*
7. Satan appropriated the word touch to indicate Job would not be faithful to God if the Lord withdrew the temporal blessings in his life. When Job still honored God, Satan suggested the Lord should touch his health to prove his faithfulness.
- *Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*
 - *Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.*
8. God has promised to deliver the believer from seven troubles in the journey into grace.
- *Job 5:19 He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.*
 - ❖ *Famine. Job 5:20 In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.*
 - ❖ *Slander. Job 5: 21 Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.*
 - ❖ *Military disaster. Job 5: 22 At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.*
 - ❖ *Wild beasts. Job 5:23 For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.*
 - ❖ *Family. Job 5: 24 And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit [inquire into the affairs of] thy habitation [descendants], and shalt not sin [do no wrong].*
 - ❖ *Posterity. Job 5: 25 Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.*
 - ❖ *Old age and death. Job 5:26 Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.*

9. When God calls His people to repentance He calls them to moral and ceremonial purity.

- *Isaiah 52:11 Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.*
- *2 Corinthians 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

10. Those who dare to touch God's people will discover He is capable of delivering them.

- *Jeremiah 12:14 Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.*

11. People have a natural desire to touch the object of love, power and affection. One day a woman who had been sick for many years and had visited many doctors but were helped by none reached out in faith to touch Christ.

- *Matthew 9:21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.*

12: People pleaded with Jesus to be allowed to touch the hem of His garment.

- *Matthew 14:36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.*
- *Mark 6:56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.*

13. Hurting hearts longed to be touched by Christ for physical healing.

- *Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.*

14. The touch of Christ was extended not only to those who needed physical healing but His touch reached out to bless the children.

- *Mark 10:13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.*
- *Luke 18:15 And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them.*

15. Prior to His ascension Jesus rebuked Mary Magdalene for clinging to Him as if she would never let Him go.

- *John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

16. Sometimes legalistic individuals place rules and regulations on others that are inappropriate commands.

- *Colossians 2:21 Touch not; taste not; handle not.*