

Week Six

LIVING IN RESPONSE TO GRACE

WEEKLY FAST

Sleep

TEXT: LEVITICUS 19:1-18 [SECTION: LEVITICUS 17-27]

Supplemental Reading:

- Leviticus 11:44-45
- Deuteronomy 10:12-13
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Romans 12:1-2
- Hebrews 12:14
- 1 Peter 1:15-16

GETTING STARTED

As children, we often internalize the heavy weight of our parents' expectations. Driven by a deep desire to make them proud, we strive relentlessly to meet those standards. Yet, these aspirations often feel overwhelmingly out of reach, at times resembling a demand for perfection. In reality, our parents simply want what is best for us. We soon realize our obedience is not a currency to earn their love, but an inherent response to it.

The final number of chapters of Leviticus serve a twofold purpose. First, to highlight the complete and utter holiness of God. Second, to prescribe how God's people ought to respond in light of His holiness: to be holy in everything they think, say, and do. Why? Because God is holy.

While this command may seem unattainable, God's mandate actually provides relief. How? By pointing us to the cross and to Christ. Through the sacrificial work of Jesus, we are no longer judged by our own holiness. We are judged by the perfect holiness and righteousness of Jesus Christ.

This does not mean disregarding God's charge to "be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy" (Lev. 19:2). Rather, inspiring grateful obedience to God as a response to His love and grace; to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Rom. 12:1).

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD: *WHAT DOES IT MEAN?*

1. How does the command to "be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy" in verses 1-2 provide the foundation for all subsequent laws in the passage?
2. "I am the Lord your God" is repeated several times in this passage. How does this unify the various laws commanded by God? Furthermore, what does this reveal about the source and purpose of Israel's holiness? What about the source and purpose of our holiness?

APPLYING THE POINT: *HOW NOW SHALL WE LIVE?*

1. The concept of "holy" means "set apart," and when applied to God, it describes His absolute apartness from creation. With this understanding, how can you live in a way that reflects God's holiness?
2. How should God's command to "be holy as I am holy" (v.2) inspire and inform your practice of loving your neighbour as yourself (v. 18)?
3. Verses 17-18 direct us to "love our neighbour as ourselves" (Matt. 22:39) instead of hating our brother, taking revenge, or holding a grudge. Which of these is hardest in real-life relationships, and what might pursuing holiness look like in that specific area for you right now?

