

Holiness

“Holiness Starts by Saying Please, Sorry, and Thanks”
Leviticus 1-7 – October 12, 2025

Our Sermon Series

HOLINESS		
A Meaningful Study of a Book in the Bible That Most People Skip Over		
Date	Bible Text	Message Title
Oct 5	Leviticus 1:1	Holiness
Oct 12	Leviticus 1-7	Holiness Starts by Saying Please, Sorry, and Thanks
Oct 19	Leviticus 8-10	Holiness is Serious Business!
Oct 26	Leviticus 11-15	Holiness Makes You a Good Kind of Different
Nov 2	Leviticus 16-17	The Key to Holiness
Nov 9	Leviticus 18	Holiness and Sex
Nov 16	Leviticus 19-20	Holiness, Love, and the Poor
Nov 23	Leviticus 21-22	When Leaders Aren't Holy
Nov 30	Leviticus 23-25	Holy Celebrations
Dec 7	Leviticus 26-27	Holiness as a Way of Life

Theme of the Book of Leviticus = Holiness

- The Book of Leviticus tells us how to move from outside of God's Presence (outside of the tent – Leviticus 1:1) to in God's Presence (in the tent – Numbers 1:1). The Book of Leviticus tells us how God graciously provides a way for sinful, corrupt people to live in His holy Presence. The way is holiness (Hebrews 12:14).
- Five times God says: “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7,26)
- Dr. John Gottman can predict divorce with 90% accuracy based on what he calls “the four horsemen of the apocalypse” of relationships: criticism, contempt, defensiveness, and stonewalling. If you want to change your relationships, you have to change your words. Nothing opens doors like *please*. Nothing mends fences like *sorry*. Nothing builds bridges like *thanks*.

The Five Offerings in Leviticus 1-7

Type	Purpose	Offering
BURNT OFFERING (1:1-17; 6:8-13)	SORRY and PLEASE. Atonement for sin in general, enabling an unholy person to approach a holy God. Underscores prayers of petition.	Unblemished bull; male sheep or goat; male or female dove
GRAIN OFFERING (2:1-16; 6:14-23)	THANKS. An expression of thanksgiving and dedication to God.	Flour or grain
PEACE OFFERING (3:1-17; 7:11-38)	THANKS and PLEASE. An expression of gratitude and desire for fellowship with God.	Unblemished bull; male or female sheep or goat
SIN OFFERING (4:1-5:13; 6:24-30)	SORRY. Atonement for unintentional sins of weakness or carelessness.	Unblemished bull; male or female goat
GUILT OFFERING (5:14-6:7; 7:1-10)	SORRY. Atonement for specific sins. Injured persons are compensated.	Unblemished ram

Jesus Christ Fulfilled All the Levitical Offerings

- Each of the offerings given to the Jewish people in Leviticus 1-7 provided only a temporary solution – a **temporary** please, sorry, and thanks. We needed God's Son Jesus to come and give us a **permanent** solution.
- Hebrews 10:1-4,10-14** (NLT) – *The old system under the law of Moses was only a shadow, a dim preview of the good things to come, not the good things themselves. The sacrifices under that system were repeated again and again, year after year, but they were never able to provide perfect cleansing for those who came to worship. If they could have provided perfect cleansing, the sacrifices would have stopped, for the worshippers would have been purified once for all time, and their feelings of guilt would have disappeared. But instead, those sacrifices actually reminded them of their sins year after year. For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. That is why... Christ came into the world.... For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time. Under the old covenant, the priest stands and ministers before the altar day after day, offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. But our High Priest offered Himself to God as a single sacrifice for sins, good for all time.... For by that one offering He forever made perfect those who are being made holy.*
- Jesus is the fulfillment of all the Levitical offerings:

Offering	Jesus' Fulfillment of That Offering
Burnt Offering	Christ gave Himself as a whole burnt offering on the altar of the cross (Eph. 5:2; Heb. 9:14).
Grain Offering	Christ was the kernel of wheat (John 12:24) ground in the mill of Calvary and offered as the Bread of Life (John 6:51).
Peace Offering	Through Jesus' sacrifice, we have restored relationship and peace with God (Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20).
Sin Offering	Jesus took our sins upon Himself dying in our place as a sin offering that we might be forgiven of our sins (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).
Guilt Offering	Christ's sacrifice not only forgives our sins but removes our guilt and shame bringing full reconciliation with God (Col. 2:13-14; 2 Cor 5:19; Rom 8:1).

Applying the Levitical Offerings to My Life By Saying Please, Sorry, and Thanks to God and Others

1. How do I need to say **sorry** to God and others?

- The heart behind the burnt, sin, and guilt offerings in Leviticus is to say “I'm sorry” to God and to appeal for forgiveness and cleansing through a blood sacrifice. Jesus fulfilled these offerings by giving Himself on the cross as our atoning sacrifice. The way that we receive Christ's substitutionary atonement by faith is by repenting of our sin, saying “I'm sorry” to God, and receiving Jesus into our lives.
- Acts 2:38** – *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
- Application #1a – Tell God “I'm sorry” and receive Christ:

I am sorry God! I repent of my sins (name them), and I turn to You. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for my sins and rising from the dead! I believe. And I receive You Jesus into my life to follow You all of my days. Please make me into a new person.

- Application #1b – Go public with your repentance and faith through public water baptism. Our next immersion baptism service is on Sunday, Nov. 23, at 12:30pm. Info at WhatsGrace.org/Baptisms
- Application #1c – Although God forgives you of all of your sins (past, present, and future) all at once for all of time at the moment when you receive Christ (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:13-15), telling God “I’m sorry” is not a one-time thing. When you are born again (John 1:12; 3:3), you enter into a permanent (cannot be lost) **relationship** with God (John 10:27-29; Rom 8:35-39; Jude 1:24; Phil 1:6). However, the **fellowship** of that relationship can be broken through sin and must be restored through regular confession of sin (1 John 1:5-10).

Lord, as a born-again believer, I thank You that all of my sins are forgiven. But I also confess that I have sinned again, and I am sorry. I confess to you and repent of.... Please cleanse me and restore our fellowship together. I invite You to sit in the driver’s seat of my life once again. Fill me and lead me and give me victory over sin.

- The Bible exhorts us to not only say “I’m sorry” to God but also to say “I’m sorry” to anyone that we have wronged or hurt.
- **Matthew 5:23-24** – *So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*
- Application #1d – Lord, please bring to my attention anyone that I have hurt and have unresolved relational conflict with. I will go to them this week and seek reconciliation as far as it depends upon me (Romans 12:18).
- Sometimes saying “I’m sorry” involves making restitution (Lev 6:1-7).
- Application #1e – Lord, in addition to saying “I’m sorry,” are you calling me to make restitution to anyone whom I have hurt?

2. How do I need to say **thanks** to God and others?

- The grain offering and peace offering were both designed for a person to say thank You to God. The grain offering reminded the people that God gave them their basic food and that they in turn owed Him their lives as a tribute. The peace offering was an offering of praise for the fellowship that we have with God through His covenant and shed blood.
- All of the offerings of Leviticus 1-7 were costly both in time and money.
- David: “I will not offer to the Lord that which cost me nothing” (2 Sam 24:24).

- Financial giving to God through His church is both an act of obedience (Malachi 3:10; 2 Cor. 9:7; Prov. 3:9-10) and an act of thanksgiving. God does not need our gifts – He owns everything (Haggai 2:8; Psalm 50:10-12). But God receives our gifts as an act of worship and thanksgiving and then uses them for His Kingdom purposes.
- Application #2 – Some gratitude practices that I will implement:
 - Giving the first ten percent of my income back to God through His church (Malachi 3:10);
 - My “Get To” List
 - My gratitude journal on my phone
 - Trying to thank at least 10 people per day.
- Salt covenant (Lev 2:13) – Including salt with the grain offering was a picture of the permanence of the covenant relationship (Num. 18:19; 2 Chron. 13:15). This is an indissoluble arrangement.

3. How do I need to say **please** to God and others?

- The phrase “a pleasing aroma to the Lord” in the burnt, grain, and peace offerings (1:9,13,17; 2:2,9; 3:5,16) denotes petitions and praise rising to the Lord like smoke and aroma ascends from the offering. These offerings were a tangible way for the Jews to express their dedication and praise to the Lord and to petition Him. They were a way of asking God for something and saying, “Please!”
- As New Covenant Christians, we appeal to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our prayers to be answered. We do not get prayers answered because of OUR merits but because of the merits of Jesus. THAT is why we pray “in Jesus’ name.”
- **John 14:13-14** – *Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*
- Mark Batterson: “Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers.”
- Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf’s favorite Bible verse (Lev. 6:12-13).
- Application #3 – As expressions of my “Please” to God, I’m going to...
 - Come to the prayer altar this morning and say “please” to God in Jesus’ name sending my petitions to His throne like incense.
 - Keep praying for my prevailing prayer list like the persistent widow of Luke 18:1-8 and not give up until I see God answer.
 - Join Zinzendorf’s dream at Grace Fellowship by coming to the Community Prayer Center weekdays at 11am or (see schedule online) or during Fire on the Altar on Sat, Oct. 25, 8am-8pm. More info at WhatsGrace.org/community-prayer
 - Make an ask of someone in my life: “I have something that I want to ask of you. Would you please...?”

One Final Idea – Why not put up a poster board on a wall in your home with three columns (Please. Sorry. Thanks.) and a pen where family members can write out their offerings to God and each other.