

Holiness

“Holiness is Serious Business!”
Leviticus 8-10 – October 19, 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

- Five times God says: “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev. 11:44,45; 19:2; 20:7,26)
- The Book of Leviticus tells us how to move from outside of God’s Presence (Leviticus 1:1) to in God’s holy Presence (Numbers 1:1). The way is holiness (Hebrews 12:14).
- Jesus fulfilled for us all of the requirements of the burnt offering, grain offering, peace offering, sin offering, and guilt offering (Lev 1-7; Heb 10).

How Priests Were Ordained in the Old Testament (Leviticus 8-9)

- Command to ordain Aaron and his sons (8:1-4)
- Dressing Aaron with priestly garments (8:5-9)
- Anointing Aaron and the tabernacle (8:10-13)
- Sacrificial offerings for ordination (8:14-29)
- Seven-day ordination ceremony (8:30-36)
- Making offerings as ordained priests (9:1-24)

Two Implications of Ordination for Us

1. In Christ, you are a priest; therefore, live in your identity as a royal priest.

- We call this the priesthood of all believers.
- **2 Peter 2:5,9** – *You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

- **Revelation 1:5-6** – *Jesus Christ has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us... priests to His God and Father.*
- **Application #1a** – You are not a child of God or a priest unless or until you have repented of your sin and received Christ.

Lord, I repent of my sins and turn to you! Jesus, I believe that You are Lord, that You died on the cross for my sins, and that You rose from the dead. I receive You into my life. Please make me into a new person (including a royal priest) for Your glory.

- Go public with your faith commitment through water baptism on Sunday, Nov. 23. Info at WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- **Application #1b** – I choose to exercise my priesthood of all believers
 - By renewing my mind (Romans 12:1-2) to my identity in Christ as child of God, royal priest, righteous in Christ, salt, light, friend of God, saint, and ambassador for Christ.
 - By exercising my anointing (1 John 2:26-27).
 - By utilizing the Urim and Thummim of the Holy Spirit who lives inside of me and will relationally guide me into all truth in my decisions and life (John 14:15-17; 16:13-15);
 - By wearing holiness as a lifestyle (1 Peter 1:15-16) like the gold plate on Aaron’s turban that says “Holy to the Lord” (Ex. 28:36).
 - By praying for others like Aaron wore the names of God’s people on his shoulders and chest (Exodus 28:12).
 - By exercising my spiritual gifts in service for the building up of the local church body of Christ (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Corinthians 12).



2. Although all believers are priests, the New Testament church today practices the ordination of **pastors and elders** for local church leadership.

- The ordination of pastors and elders in the local church occurs through the laying on of hands by overseers (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; 1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; 2 Timothy 1:6; Acts 6:1-6; 13:1-3; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- Grace Fellowship’s process for ordaining pastor-elders includes:
 - (1) Interview by a Grace Fellowship pastor.
 - (2) Interview by Personnel Team of the GF Board of Elders.
 - (3) A process of mentoring, seminary education, and ministry experience.
 - (4) Multiple interviews by an ordination board.
 - (5) Ordination through the laying on of hands by an overseer.
- **Application #2** – Is God calling you to pastoral ministry as a pastor-elder in the church?

What We Can Learn About Holiness From Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10)

Holiness is **serious business** and demands **obedience!**

- The same holiness that gave holy goosebumps in Leviticus 9:24 led to holy judgment in Leviticus 10:2.
- God had warned them in Leviticus 8:35 to perform everything as He had charged. Nadab and Abihu did not heed this charge and died.
- God had warned them in **Exodus 30:9** – “*You shall not offer unauthorized incense.*”
- Warren Wiersbe has identified at least 7 disobediences that Nadab and Abihu engaged in:

Wrong people – Aaron should handle incense, not his sons	Ex.30:7-10
Wrong instruments – The high priest's censer, not theirs	Ex. 40:9
Wrong time – Only on the annual Day of Atonement	Lev. 16
Wrong authority – Didn't submit to Moses, Aaron, or God's Word	Heb. 13:7
Wrong fire – Coals should have been taken from brazen altar	Lev. 16:12
Wrong motive – They didn't seek to glorify God alone	Lev. 10:3
Wrong spirit – Some speculate that they were drunk	Lev. 10:9--10

- “I WILL be sanctified!” (hallowed, treated as holy – 10:3)
- Examples of God demanding holy obedience:
 - (1) When Moses struck the rock (Numbers 20:1-13)
 - (2) When Achan took some treasure (Joshua 7:1-26)
 - (3) When Uzzah steadied the ark (2 Samuel 6:1-9)
 - (4) When Ananias and Saphira lied (Acts 5:1-11)
- John Bevere: “To fear God is to reverence and be in complete awe of Him. To fear God is to hallow Him. To fear God is to esteem, respect, honor, venerate, and adore Him above anyone or anything else. To fear God is to hate sin and injustice. To fear God is to depart from evil in every sense – thought, word, and action. To fear God is to walk in authentic humility before God and mankind. To fear God is to give Him all that belongs to Him. To fear God is to tremble before Him in wonder and awe. To fear God is to obey Him.”
- Jerry Bridges: “God wants us to walk in obedience – not victory. Obedience is oriented toward God; victory is oriented toward self. Victory is a byproduct of obedience.”
- **Application #3** – In response to the absolute seriousness of God's standard of holiness, I choose to...
 - Obey all of God's commands in the power of the Holy Spirit. Are there any commands of Scripture that I am not currently obeying? I choose to focus on obedience (God-centered) over victory (me-centered).
 - Pray “hallowed be Thy name” (Matthew 6:9) – Lord, please make Your name holy in my life!!
 - Walk in the reverential fear of the Lord and holiness.
- Story in “The Insanity of God” and YouTube: “Todd Smith – Dmitri's Song”

The Priestly Garments of Aaron the High Priest

