

# Holiness

“Holiness Makes You a Good Kind of Different”  
Leviticus 11-15 – October 26, 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). *qadowsh* (kaw-doshe’) = sacred; holy; set apart

## Understanding Old Testament Laws

- Jim’s conversation with another pastor (Leviticus 11:1-12).
- There are 3 types of laws in the Old Testament:

Type of Law	Definition	Examples	Repeated in NT?
Civil	Laws to bring order to citizenship in nation of Israel	If you steal, you must return original plus 20 percent. Capital punishment for rebellious teenagers.	No
Ceremonial	Rituals of sacrifice; rituals that made Israel distinct	Animal sacrifices; kosher: don’t eat shrimp or pork; don’t wear blended fabrics; don’t get tattoos	No
Moral	Commandments regarding what is good, right, holy	Ten Commandments. Commandments regarding sexuality.	Yes

- The Bible makes it clear that New Testament (new covenant) believers are no longer under the civil and ceremonial laws of the old covenant.
- **Romans 7:4,6** – *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.... But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*

- **Galatians 3:24-26** – *So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.*
- To be clear: New Testament believers ARE allowed to eat shrimp and pork (Mark 7:19; Acts 10:15; 1 Timothy 4:4-5).
- The Bible makes it clear that New Testament (new covenant) believers are no longer under the civil and ceremonial laws of the old covenant. But a majority of the moral laws of the Old Testament are repeated in the New Testament, and the Bible calls new covenant believers to follow these commandments.

## The Purpose of Ceremonial Laws for Jews in the Old Testament

- Outline of Leviticus with its chiastic structure:

Way to Holiness	Ritual Sacrifices	1-7
	Priests Ordained	8-10
	Ritual Purity	11-15
	<b>DAY OF ATONEMENT</b>	<b>16-17</b>
Walk of Holiness	Moral Purity	18
		19-20
	Qualifications for Priests	21-22
	Ritual Feasts	23-25
	Call to Covenant Faithfulness	26-27

- There are two aspects of purity (holiness):
  - (1) **Ritual purity** – ceremonial practices of “cleanliness” that set a person (or nation) apart as good kind of different (Lev. 11:44-47);
  - (2) **Moral purity** – God’s commandments regarding moral behaviors like stealing, lying, adultery, etc.
- To violate God’s commandments of moral purity is sin.
- For an old covenant Jew, to become “unclean” through “ritual impurity” is not sin, but it does mean that you cannot enter the tent for a time period.
  - To give birth to a child is NOT sin, but it does make you temporarily “unclean” and unable to enter the tent (Leviticus 12:1-3).
  - To have a skin disease is NOT sin, but it does make you temporarily “unclean” and unable to enter the tent (Leviticus 13:1-3,46; 14:1-3,54-57).
  - To have sex with your spouse is NOT sin, but it does make you temporarily “unclean” and unable to enter the tent (15:18).
  - To have an emission of semen is NOT sin, but it does make you temporarily “unclean” and unable to enter the tent (15:16-17). [Note: Matthew 5:28 clearly states that pornography is sin.]
  - To have a menstrual period is NOT sin, but it does make you temporarily “unclean” and unable to enter the tent (15:19-20)
  - It is NOT a sin to touch a dead body, but it does make you “unclean” and temporarily unable to enter the tent (Numbers 19:11-13)

- Being “unclean” is NOT sin, but entering the tent while you are unclean IS sin (Leviticus 15:31; Numbers 19:13).
- Tim Mackie: “Because God is holy and set apart, the Israelites need to be in a state of holiness themselves in order to enter His Presence, which was called being ‘clean’ or ‘pure.’ God’s presence was off-limits to anyone who wasn’t in a holy state, which was called being ‘unclean’ or ‘impure.’ An Israelite could become impure in a few ways: contact with reproductive body fluids (Lev. 12; Lev. 15), having a skin disease (Lev.13a, 14a), touching mold or fungus (Lev. 13b, 14b), or touching a dead body (Num. 19). For the Israelites, these were associated with mortality and the loss of life, which gets us to the core symbolic idea here. You become impure when you’re contaminated by touching death, which is the opposite of God’s holiness whose essence is life. Ritual impurity is any sign of death, decay, and life outside of Eden. It’s not about a person’s sin. Israel’s laws regarding purity and impurity kept life and death (their own mortality) before them. Because Yahweh is the Creator and Sustainer of all life, anything dying or exhibiting signs of decay cannot be in His Presence. That’s why reproductive fluids were considered impure in ancient Israel. These fluids were representative of life. To be ‘leaking life’ in the presence of the Creator of life was to bring symbolic death into His Presence. Now, simply being impure was not sinful or wrong. Touching those things is a normal part of life. Impurity was a temporary state that lasted a week or two and then was over. What was wrong was to enter into God’s Presence with symbols of death and impurity on you.”

### What Difference Does This Make in My Life in 2025?

#### 1. Justification – Place your faith in Jesus Christ to receive **imputed holiness** and to spend eternity in God’s Presence in Heaven.

- When a person repents of their sin and trusts in Jesus Christ, their sins are forgiven and the holiness of Jesus Christ is imputed to their account such that the holy requirements of Heaven are fulfilled. God sees us as holy because of His Son.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** – *God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- **Hebrews 10:12,14** (NLT) – *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.*
- Application #1 – Repent of your sins and trust Christ for your salvation:

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. I receive Your holiness imputed to my life. Please make me into a new person. I choose to follow You all of my days.

- Go public with your faith commitment through water baptism on Sunday, Nov. 23. Info at <https://www.whatisgrace.org/baptisms>

#### 2. Sanctification – Trust Jesus’ Holy Spirit daily to **impart holiness** and moral purity into your life in order to glorify God and enjoy His Presence now.

- Jesus’ holiness is imparted to our lives, as we trust Him day by day for the power to walk in moral purity in obedience to His commands.
- **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** – *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*
- As believers behold Christ’s divine glory, this beholding transforms us from one degree of glory to another. We become what we behold!!! Behold Jesus and become more and more like Jesus!!!
- Bill Bright: “This is the secret: We can live a holy life if we yield to the Holy Spirit who came to glorify Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only person to ever live a holy life, and now He resides within every believer through His Holy Spirit. His presence and power give us the strength to live a holy life moment by moment.”
- Application #2 – I desperately want to walk in the imparted holiness of Jesus; therefore, I choose to...
  - Fix my eyes on Jesus beholding Him and being transformed by Him.
  - Put off my old self and put on my new self (Ephesians 4:22-24).
  - Resign from every area of my life and turn it over to His Spirit.

#### 3. Enter His Presence – Trust God to enter His Presence as a lifestyle through **set apart spiritual practices**.

- Without slipping into old covenant, there is something to be learned from Leviticus about entering God’s Presence (the tent) through practices of pursuing spiritual life and shunning spiritual death.
- Application #3 – In the power of God’s Holy Spirit, I choose practices of pursuing spiritual life:
  - Staying away from TV shows and movies and social media posts and music that promote death and impurity and that lead me away from God’s Presence.
  - Digesting the news in order to pray over current events but turning off the news when it brings death to my soul.
  - Listening to music and audiobooks and podcasts that bring spiritual life to me.
  - Reading and meditating on and applying and obeying God’s Word.
  - Entering His Presence with thanksgiving and praise (Psalm 100:4).
  - Inviting Jesus into the messiness and ugliness of my world to make all things clean.
- Notice that Jesus gets his “hands dirty” repeatedly transforming impurity into purity making people fit for God’s Presence: The menstruating woman touches Him and is healed (Luke 8:42-48); Jesus touches a dead man’s coffin and brings him back to life (Luke 7:11-17); Jesus touches a leper with skin disease and heals him (Matthew 8:1-4).