

# Holiness

## “Holiness, Love, and the Poor”

Leviticus 19-20 – November 16, 2025

### Our Sermon Series

HOLINESS		
<i>A Meaningful Study of a Book in the Bible That Most People Skip Over</i>		
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

### 3 Types of Old Testament Laws

Type of Law	Definition	Examples	Repeated in NT?
<b>Civil</b>	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
<b>Ceremonial</b>	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
<b>Moral</b>	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 7:1-6; Galatians 3:24-26; Mark 7:19; Acts 10:15; 1 Timothy 4:4-5). But, the moral laws of the Old Testament are repeated in the New Testament, and the Bible calls new covenant believers to follow these commandments.

### Outline of Leviticus 19-20

- **19:1-2; 20:7-8; 20:26** – Main point: **Be holy, for I am holy.**
- **19:3-4** – **Moral** – Three of the ten commandments: honor parents, keep Sabbath, no idols.
- **19:5-8** – **Ceremonial** – Offer peace offering in a holy manner.
- **19:9-18** – **Moral** – Love your neighbor as yourself. Commandments regarding immigrants, the poor, stealing, lying, swearing, oppression, slander, hatred, and vengeance.
- **19:19** – **Ceremonial** – Animal, seed, and fabric blending.
- **19:20-22** – **Moral and Civil** – Sexual sin in the workplace.
- **19:23-25** – **Ceremonial** – Crops in your new land.

- **19:26a** – **Moral** – Do not eat blood (Acts 15:20).
- **19:26b,31; 20:6,27** – **Moral** – Prohibitions against magic, sorcery, fortune-telling, omens, and consulting the dead.
- **19:27-28** – **Ceremonial** – Prohibitions against certain haircuts, body cuts, or tattoos (the customs of the pagan nations around them).
- **19:29** – **Moral** – Do not make your daughter a prostitute.
- **19:30** – **Moral** – Keep God's Sabbath.
- **19:32-37** – **Moral** – Loving treatment of others – the elderly, immigrants, honesty. Obey God's commandments.
- **20:1-21** – **Civil** – Capital offenses and/or excommunication offenses: child sacrifice (vv.1-5), sorcery (v.6), cursing parents (v.9), adultery, incest, same sex sexual relations, bestiality (vv.10-21).
- **20:22-27** – **Summary: Be holy, for I the Lord am holy.** Keep all of my statutes and be set apart from all the nations around you.

### Let's Talk About Tattoos (19:28)

- Leviticus 19:28 forbids tattoos. Is this a ceremonial or moral law?
- **Application #1** – Make these 4 considerations before getting a tattoo:
  - (1) Obey your parents until you are an independent adult (Eph. 6:1-3);
  - (2) Consult your spouse because your body belongs to her as well (1 Corinthians 7:1-5);
  - (3) Ask: Does the image or word I'm considering on my skin glorify God? (1 Corinthians 10:31)
  - (4) Ask: Will my tattoo cause anyone to whom I am ministering to stumble? (1 Corinthians 8:13).
- Some Christian articles on tattoos:
  - [gotquestions.blog/tattoos-sin.html](http://gotquestions.blog/tattoos-sin.html)
  - [desiringgod.org/interviews/tattoos-in-biblical-perspective](http://desiringgod.org/interviews/tattoos-in-biblical-perspective)

### Let's Talk About Magic and Sorcery (19:26,31; 20:6,27)

- Leviticus 19:26,31; 20:6,27 clearly forbid engaging in magic, witchcraft, sorcery, fortunetelling, omens, and consulting the dead (see also Deuteronomy 18:10-12). These are clearly moral commands that are repeated in the New Testament (Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8; 22:15).
- Michael Houdmann: “Sorcery, the use of spells, divination, or speaking to spirits are clearly condemned in the Bible. They are an attempt to bypass God's wisdom and power and give glory to Satan instead. God has no tolerance for sorcery.”
- **Application #2** – If you have engaged any of the following practices, repent and renounce them using this prayer:

*“Lord, I confess that I have participated in \_\_\_\_\_. I acknowledge that doing so was evil and offensive in your sight. I am sorry, and I repent. I thank You for forgiving me through shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross. I renounce any and all involvement with \_\_\_\_\_, and I cancel out all ground that the enemy gained in my life through this activity. In Jesus' name. Amen.”*

Ouija board	Bloody Mary	Light as a feather	Table lifting
Magic Eight Ball	Spells or curses	Mental telepathy	Automatic writing
Trances	Spirit guides	Fortune telling	Divination
Tea leaves	Levitation	Tarot cards	Spirit animal
Magic – The Gathering	Witchcraft/sorcery	Satanism	Palm reading
Astrology	Horoscopes	Hypnosis	Seances
Black/white magic	Dungeons & Dragons	Blood pacts	Cutting yourself
Crystals	Good luck charms	Sexual spirits	Some martial arts
Superstitions	Mormonism	Jehovah's Witness	New Age
Free Masons	Christian Science	Transcendental meditation/Hinduism	
Wicca	Some yoga	Charlie Charlie	Reiki
Channeling/Chakras	Islam	Buddhism/Zen	Silva Mind Control
Out of body	Nature worship	Bahaism	Ancestor worship

## What It Means to Love People According to Leviticus 19:9-18

### 1. I love people by sharing **food** with them (vv.9-10)

- **Matthew 25:35,40** – *I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.... As you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.*
- Regina Alexander: “Hunger has no ears.” (Meaning that people cannot hear the Good News of the Gospel when they have no food.)
- And we love, not just the poor, but our family, neighbors, friends, and coworkers by sharing food and a meal with them.
- Healthy families eat together. Specifically, they have at least 5 meaningful mealtimes together per week. In homes where families have five or more meaningful mealtimes together per week, children are 35% less likely to engage in eating disorders, 24% more likely to eat healthier foods, 12% less likely to be overweight, 34% less likely to smoke, 50% less likely to drink, 50% less likely to be sexually active, 50% less likely to attempt suicide. And yet, only 30% of families in America eat together regularly.
- **Application #3** – With God’s help and power, I am going to...
  - Serve the poor by engaging in the Community Care Challenge sponsored by our missions ministry or helping with our Garden of Grace: [WhatIsGrace.org/local-missions](http://WhatIsGrace.org/local-missions)
  - Help with the Feed the Hunger Katy Community Packathon on Feb. 19-21, 2026: [WhatIsGrace.org/Missions](http://WhatIsGrace.org/Missions) - under local missions, click on “Click to See Upcoming Events”
  - Prioritize eating at least 5 meals per week together as a family
  - Take food to a neighbor or someone who needs an expression of love.

### 2. I love people by not **stealing** from them or **lying** to them (vv.11-12)

- **Application #4** – Is there anything that I have borrowed from someone that I need to return? Are there any questionable practices in my workplace that I need to stop? Is there anyone that I need to confess a lie to? I choose to stop lying in order to make myself “look good” or “feel less awkward” – I commit to tell the truth or to not speak at all.

### 3. I love people by treating them **fairly** (vv.13-15)

- **Application #5** – Am I treating anyone in my life unfairly and unjustly? How does God want to use me to right any injustices in our society?
- **Proverbs 17:15** (NLT) – *Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent – both are detestable to the Lord.*
- Two organizations working for biblical justice in our society:
  - The Innocence Project works to free the innocent and prevent wrongful convictions having helped free more than 250 innocent people from prison: [innocenceproject.org](http://innocenceproject.org)
  - First Liberty Institute is dedicated to defending religious liberty for all Americans for the right to follow their conscience and live according to their beliefs such as observing the Sabbath, praying, displaying the cross, operating their business according to their beliefs: [firstliberty.org](http://firstliberty.org)

### 4. I love people by not **talking behind their backs** (v.16)

- **Proverbs 26:22** (The Message) – *Listening to gossip is like eating cheap candy; do you want junk like that in your belly?*
- **Proverbs 16:27-28** (The Message) – *Mean people spread mean gossip; their words smart and burn.... Gossips break up friendships.*
- **James 4:11** (The Message) – *Don't bad-mouth each other.*
- **Application #6** – With God’s help and power, I commit to build others up with my words (Ephesians 4:29) rather than talking behind their backs.

### 5. I love people by **resolving my conflicts** with them (vv.17-18)

- God puts the obligation of initiating reconciliation on you:
  - If you have hurt someone, you are to go to them and apologize (Matthew 5:23-24).
  - If someone has hurt you, you are to go to them and speak the truth in love (Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:15).
- **Romans 12:18** – *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
- **Application #7** – With God’s help and power, I will forgive those who have hurt me and will seek reconciliation as God leads as far as it depends on me.

**The Best Way to Love People** – The absolute best way to love people is to share with them the good news message of the Gospel!

- With God's help, I am going to build relationships with those who don't know Christ yet and share my faith with them.
- With God's help, I am going to go on a cross-cultural mission trip (CCMT) in 2026. QR Code for CCMTs:

