

Leviticus Chapter 19

- Personal laws, or laws for every day life:
 - God takes a keen interest, a personal interest in these things, thus you will see phrases like you will keep “My statutes”, “My ordinances”, “My Sabbath”, “My sanctuary”.
 - The penalty for violating these laws is the subject of the next chapter.
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V: 1-2 Is this a different day or just a different paragraph in a larger conversation?

- All the congregation: an important message for every believer.
- Again the same admonition, and the theme of this book: “Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.”
- The people are being called to imitate God, who’s essential nature is holiness.
1 Corinthians 11:1 “Follow / imitate me, just as I also follow / imitate Christ.”
- The way to holiness is through sacrifice, ultimately through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Holiness leads to happiness, it leads us into His presence.

Psalms 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

V: 3 “You shall fear / respect / revere, your parents.” Holiness begins at home.

5th Commandment:

Exodus 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land...”

- The commandment that contains a blessing.
- Notice that in none of these scriptures is there a qualifier – honor them if, or as long as... no matter what honor them.

Ephesians 6:1-2 “¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
²Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise.”

“... and keep My Sabbaths:”

4th Commandment

Exodus 20:8 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

- As part of the Law, keeping the Sabbath day holy, along with the feast days ordained by God, such as the Passover.
- The commandment regarding the Sabbath day is the only one of the 10 commandments not repeated in the New Testament.
- This is because Jesus is our Sabbath, our rest:

Matthew 12:8 “For the Son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.”

- “Lord of the Sabbath” – because He created it! He is Lord of all!

Hebrews 4:9-11 ⁹“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. ¹⁰For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from His own works, as God did from His. ¹¹Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.”

- Along with the “what” to do, we have the “why”:

“I am the Lord your God.” – *“I am the Lord”* a combined 16 times in this chapter.

V: 4 No worshipping idols, or images. Why? “I am the Lord your God.”

^{2nd} Commandment:

Exodus 20:4-5 ⁴“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: ⁵Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:...”

- They were not to commit spiritual adultery or fornication.
- Eventually the images that we worship will be in our image, we’ll make up gods that conform to our will, and that justify our behavior and sin.

V: 5-8 Any one that offers a “peace offering” an offering of communion and fellowship with God, the only offering where the person making the offering received back a portion of the offering to enjoy it in fellowship with God and with their family and friends.

- This was not to be compelled in any way, but to be a free will offering.
- They had two days to consume their portion of the offering, after that it was to be destroyed, otherwise it was un-acceptable.

V: 9-10 This is the Biblical model for caring for the poor. When you reap your harvest, we're not to be too thorough, leaving some on the edges, and a little here and there. If some was dropped by accident it was to be left there and not picked up.

V: 10 Uses the illustration of a vineyard.

- It's not to be gone over a 2nd time by the harvesters.
- In the orchard, picking apricots or apples, some would be green or not ready to be picked.
- The owner has one shot at it, if it was left behind, it was to be left for the poor and the stranger.
- Notice that it's not packaged up and brought to their door step, and presented.
- The implication here is that the poor have to come and get it for themselves, they are to do the work required to receive it.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

1 Timothy 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

It's all part of the curse:

Genesis 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground..."

V: 11 No stealing, no lying.

8th Commandment:

Exodus 20:15 "Thou shalt not steal."

Ephesians 4:28 "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

- Besides the admonition not to steal, this is a picture of repentance.

9th Commandment:

Exodus 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

Ephesians 4:25 "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another."

Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

V: 12 Not swearing by God's name falsely is the same as not taking His name in vain:

3rd Commandment:

Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain;"

- "Neither" or in addition to: You shall not profane the name of thy God:
- Obedience glorifies the name of our God, disobedience profanes the name of our God.

V: 13 They were not to defraud their neighbors, nor steal from them.

- If someone is hired for a job, he shall be paid daily, promptly.

Part of the model prayer:

Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread."

- A modern day application would be to simply pay your bills on time, not just when it's convenient.

V: 14 The deaf may not hear but God will, the blind may not see, but God will.

- They were not to take advantage of the deaf or the blind.
- We're to be patient and kind with the disadvantaged, we're not to cause them grief.

Isaiah 35:5 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped."

- There is a spiritual application to those who can't hear God's word, or see what God is doing.

V: 15 Judgment shall be in righteousness; not letting someone off because their poor or rich.

V: 16 No gossiping or murmuring. Against his blood, murdering someone with words.

James 1:26 "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

V: 17 Hating you neighbor in your heart would be to allow him to continue in sin and not say something. Issues were to be dealt with openly and frankly.

Proverbs 27:5-6 "⁵Open rebuke is better than secret love. ⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

- We are called to be our brother's keeper:

The word of God comes to Ezekiel in the same way:

Ezekiel 3:17-21 ¹⁷“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from Me. ¹⁸When I say unto the wicked, thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. ¹⁹Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. ²⁰Again, when a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. ²¹Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.”

V: 18 We're not to take revenge:

Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord.”

- We're not to bear a grudge, no Hatfield & McCoy's type of feuds.

Hebrews 12:14-15 ¹⁴“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: ¹⁵Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”

Ephesians 4:27 “Neither give place to the devil.”

- We're to love our neighbors as ourselves:

Romans 13:10 “Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.”

- We're to love our neighbors as ourselves, Just as Jesus said:

Matthew 22:37-39 ³⁷Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”

- The 2nd table of the Law: thou shalt not murder, not commit adultery, not steal, not lie, not covet – not, not, not...

- Jesus, turns it to a positive: just love your neighbor as yourself and none of these things will happen.

John 13:34-35 ³⁴“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

V: 19 No mixing the cattle up, no blending the seed, no mingled garments of wool & cotton.

- The type of breeding that results in mules, horses and donkey’s being bread together, or of the citrus hybrids called tangello’s (tangerines & grapefruits).
- Right now at the Reno zoo, they have a “liger” on exhibit.

V: 20-22 A man that slept with a servant girl betrothed to another, they were both to be scourged, then a sin offering offered.

- This would be a violation of the 7th commandment:

Exodus 20:14 “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

- “Scourged” is a feminine noun, it takes 4 English words to communicate the one Hebrew word – which could just as easily be “they” shall be scourged as “she”.
- KJV has “she shall be scourged”, most translations have “they” – which is in line with other scriptures that speak of adultery and the two being dealt with.

V: 23-25 When new trees are planted, the fruit in the first three years is unfit according to God, the fruit of the 4th year is to be given unto the Lord, it is holy, in the 5th year it was their to eat.

- The first fruits always belong to God:

Proverbs 3:9 “Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase:”

V: 26 They are not to eat anything with blood in it, neither shall they use enchantments, or get involved in astrology. They are all connected.

V: 27 Rounding off the beard: different cults and pagan worshippers had particular looks, fashions, and customs – they weren’t to look like them.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world:...”

- We too are to avoid looking like the world, conforming to their odd fashions and weirdness.

V: 28 No cuttings in their flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon their flesh.

- Cuttings, branding, piercing – skulls – tatoos.
- Some people discount these admonitions because they are in the OT, part of the Law. These admonitions are in context with others that still stand, why would these not?

V: 29 They weren't to force their daughters into prostitution – another admonition that still stands.

- Temple or ritual prostitutes were common amongst the pagans around them.
- We should also be careful that they don't look like prostitutes; meaning they should be in modest attire – so as not to be confused.

1 Timothy 2:9-10 “⁹In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair gold or pearls or costly clothing, ¹⁰but which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.”

V: 30 Keep God's Sabbaths – 2nd mention of the 4th Commandment, along with reverencing the sanctuary or dwelling place of God.

V: 31 Do not give heed to those who speak for familiar / demonic spirits.

- Don't follow after sorcerers or occult practices, or be defiled by them.

V: 32 Respect and honor your elders.

1 Timothy 5:1 “Rebuke not an elder, but entreat him as a father; and the young men as brethren.”

- Our culture is obsessed with youth, trying to look young, stay young – God says honor the aged.

Isaiah 3:5 “And the people shall be oppressed, everyone by his neighbor: the child will behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honorable.”

- One of the symptoms of a society on the verge of collapse, on the brink of destruction is failing to honor the elderly.

V: 33-34 Be kind to strangers, sojourners – because that's what you are.

V: 35-36 Honest weights and measures – we are the children of God.

Deuteronomy 25:16 “For all that do such things, and all that do un-
righteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God.”

V: 37 Observe and do all the statutes given to us by God.

James 1:22 “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own
selves.”