

Leviticus 19:19-37

3-8-01

“Separation from Evil Association!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. “Every departure from the pathway of holiness is a blaspheming of the name of God!” (14 x’s in this chapter “I am the Lord”)
 - 1.1.1. Everything in the Israelites life, was a perpetual reminder of “whose they were” & “to whom they served!”
 - 1.1.2. Q: Don’t we do the same? - Don’t you set up little reminders throughout your day of “whom you serve?”
 - 1.1.2.1. We do in: Christian clothes, bumper stickers, our jewelry, our KWVE - CD’s - music, our bible is a reminder, a plaque on your desk, pictures in our homes, sayings or verses, key chains. So, at home, in our cars, at work we inundate ourselves w/reminders of who we serve!
- 1.2. Many of these ordinances prohibited “imitating practices related to heathen worship”.
 - 1.2.1. Separation from Evil Association!
- 1.3. (18) Let’s not forget our key verse for this chapter.
 - 1.3.1. This chapter dealt with an overview of all 10 commandments.
 - 1.3.1.1. Love of course being the principle to fulfill all 10.
 - 1.3.2. “Love you neighbor as yourself” – There is legitimate Self-love?
 - 1.3.2.1. Yes! If not how could Paul tell us “husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church”(Eph.5:28,29)
 - 1.3.2.2. 1] Better Self – Our duty to nourish & cherish(feed & care for).
 - 1.3.2.2.1. As we, in most cases, most certainly do care for ourselves...very well.
 - 1.3.2.2.2. If not, the opposite would be true, it would make “radical asceticism”(giving yourself phys pain or discomfort)the highest good!
 - 1.3.2.3. 2] Worse Self – Our duty to detest & mortify.
 - 1.3.2.4. This self-love is placed as a measuring rod, to help us measure our love towards our neighbor!

2. **VARIOUS ORDINANCES! (19-37)**

- 2.1. (19) **No Mixing! (stock, seed, & sweaters)**
 - 2.1.1. That which was **separated** by creation, are to remain so!
 - 2.1.1.1. You've heard it been said, "What God has joined together, let not man separate." Here it says, "what God has separated, let not man put together!"
 - 2.1.2. **Stock!** - Hebrew Scholar **R. Laird Harris** translates the 1st clause, "Do not make your animals fall down w/an unequal yoke."
 - 2.1.2.1. It would be cruel to yoke to the same heavy load 2 animals of unequal stature & strength.
 - 2.1.2.2. This is the point in a similar teaching of Deut. (See 22:9-11).
 - 2.1.3. If the **breeding** is more accurate then this may refer to "the mule"?
 - 2.1.3.1. The sterile hybrid offspring of a **male donkey** and a **female horse**.
 - 2.1.3.2. These hybrid creatures are **unfruitful!**
 - 2.1.3.3. Jesus rode on a **donkey** not a **mule**. (Did you know...that a donkey has a cross on its shoulders/back)
 - 2.1.4. **Seed!** – Do you sow your best seeds?
 - 2.1.4.1. If **bad seeds** come up, it must be **the enemies** doings, & not **yours!**
 - 2.1.4.2. Sow your best!
 - 2.1.4.3. Maybe you'd say "I'd never plant bad seeds in my garden". But is there any "left over seeds" from last year, that just keep recycling themselves?
 - 2.1.4.3.1. **Cilantro example!**
 - 2.1.5. **Sweaters!** - Even their **clothing** should mark them as different!
- 2.2. (20-22,29) **Sexual Immorality!**
 - 2.2.1. If a wife was punishable by death for both. In this case a lighter penalty because only a concubine. – **What a minute was God advocating this, since He mentions it here?**
 - 2.2.1.1. "That **slavery & its attendant ills** are here **recognized** does not imply that the are **approved** by God."¹
 - 2.2.1.2. Jesus stated that certain of the Mosaic laws were given "**because of the hardness of men's hearts**".

¹ Charles Pfeiffer; pg.45

2.2.2. **Consequences of a Moral Fall!** (by Randy Alcorn)

2.2.3. Whenever I feel particularly vulnerable to sexual temptation, I find it helpful to review what effects my action could have:

2.2.4. * Grieving the Lord who redeemed me. * Dragging his sacred name into the mud. * One day having to look Jesus, the Righteous Judge, in the face and give an account of my actions. * Following in the footsteps of these people whose immorality forfeited their ministries and caused me to shudder: (list names). * Inflicting untold hurt on _____, my best friend and loyal wife/husband. * Losing _____ respect and trust. * Hurting my beloved daughters/sons, _____ and _____. * Destroying my example and credibility with my children, and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God ("Why listen to a man who betrayed Mom and us?") * If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable to forgive, perhaps losing my wife/husband and children forever. * Causing shame to my family ("Why isn't Daddy a pastor anymore?") * Losing self-respect. * Creating a form of guilt awfully hard to shake. Even though God would forgive me, would I constantly battle being forgiven? * Forming memories and flashbacks that could plague future intimacy with my wife/husband. * Wasting years of ministry training and experience for a long time, maybe permanently. * Forfeiting the effect of years of witnessing to my father and reinforcing his distrust for ministers that has only begun to soften by my example but that would harden, perhaps permanently, because of my immorality. * Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community. * Bringing great pleasure to Satan, the enemy of God and all that is good. * Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery. * Possibly bearing the physical consequences of such diseases as gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes and AIDS; perhaps infecting _____ or, in the case of AIDS, even causing her/his death. * Possibly causing pregnancy, with the personal and financial implications, including a life long reminder of my sin. * Bringing shame and hurt to these fellow pastors and elders: (list names). * Causing shame and hurt to these friends, especially those I have led to Christ and discipled: (list names). * Invoking shame and life-long embarrassment upon myself.

2.2.4.1. **Prov.6:32,33** "Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away."

2.2.5. **Count the Cost!**

- 2.3. (23-25) Earth Day!
- 2.3.1. Uncircumcised = forbidden.
- 2.3.2. The 1st fruits should always be His Prov.3:9,10 “Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.”
- 2.3.3. They were to regard the very soil of Canaan as so polluted by the sins of its former inhabitants.
- 2.4. (26-28; 31) Prohibitions against imitating the practices of unbelievers!
- 2.4.1. “do not be conformed to this world,”
- 2.4.2. (28) This prohibited any disfigurement of the person.
- 2.4.3. **Cuttings** – Refers to a passionate outbursts of mourning, common among the excitable nations of the East.
- 2.4.3.1. They would scratch their arms, hands, & face.
- 2.4.3.2. See Deut.14:1 This was done on account of a soul(i.e. a dead person).
- 2.4.3.3. **1 Kings 18:28** “So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them.”
- 2.4.4. **Tattoo’s** - (qa-aqa) only here,
- 2.4.4.1. It means branded.
- 2.4.4.2. Many use this verse today to warn off kids from getting them.
- 2.4.4.2.1. They didn’t have tattoo parlors in those days.
- 2.4.4.3. On the other hand it is **the process** of doing a Tattoo that might fall into this category...(i.e. branding the skin!)
- 2.4.4.4. I like **Chuck Smiths** answer to what he thought of Tattoo’s, “I think their stupid”!
- 2.4.5. (31) Seeking out mediums & wizards would indicate a lack of trust in & dedication to the Lord.
- 2.4.5.1. As would reading your horoscope, & the like.
- 2.5. (30) 3 helps to spiritual Progress:
- 2.5.1. **1] A Day!** – “You shall keep My Sabbaths”
- 2.5.1.1. Long before **C & R Clothiers** made popular the motto, “What a difference a Day Makes”...the God of the universe taught the same.

- 2.5.1.2. The Lord had told them to set aside 1/7th of their life for the **culture of the soul**, for **spiritual growth**, for **sacred usefulness**.
- 2.5.1.3. I read an article recently about why our bodies needing **proper sleep**. - It went into the importance of the whole body, during the deep sleep stages, rejuvenating, rebuilding, & restoring itself... cell by cell!
- 2.5.1.3.1. **Spiritually** God designed us the same. As we can once in awhile can push through & not even sleep for a night...so we sometimes can go for a time w/o spiritual refreshment...but it is not healthy!
- 2.5.1.3.2. "Devotions, prayer, bible studies, retreats, & church" are all ways God designed for our "spiritual rejuvenation!"
- 2.5.1.4. Instead of getting caught up on "**the day**", can we get caught up on "**the concept**" He was teaching?
- 2.5.2. **2] A Place!** – "**and reverence My sanctuary**"
- 2.5.2.1. The sanctuary, whether made of "**canvas, stone, or flesh & blood,**" is the Temple of the Holy Spirit!...And worship there helps devotion everywhere!
- 2.5.2.1.1. **Q:** Who then can properly **reverence** it under one form & **desecrate** it under another? (Speaking of the above verse vs.29)
- 2.5.3. **3] A Direction!** – "**I am the Lord!**"
- 2.5.3.1. So the Lord says, "**Trust Me, Love Me, Follow Me, Exalt Me.**"
- 2.6. **(32) The Elderly!**
- 2.6.1. *I want you to know...I promise to **rise** when Des walks in from now on!...☺*
- 2.6.2. The story of **Rehoboam's** refusal to listen to the older men's advice drives home the point that it is perilous to ignore an older person's advice (1 Kings 12:6-20).
- 2.6.3. Peter agrees, "**Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."** (1 Pet.5:5)
- 2.6.4. Oh how the **aged** has much to teach inexperienced **youth!**

- 2.6.5. **With age there should be the wisdom of experience!**
- 2.6.5.1. Caryl said, "He that wears the **Silver** crown should be honored in his capacity as well as he that wears the **Golden** crown."
- 2.6.5.2. It is a sad sign of degeneracy of a nation when the child behaves himself proudly against the ancient.
- 2.6.5.3. **Is.3:5** "The people will be oppressed, Every one by another and every one by his neighbor; The **child** will be insolent toward the **elder**, And the base toward the honorable."
- 2.7. **(33,34) Strangers!**
- 2.7.1. He seems to often remind Israel that they had been strangers in Egypt once.
- 2.7.2. Wow! Love him as yourself!!!(34)
- 2.8. **(35,36) Just weights!**
- 2.8.1. These were stones of various sizes, to be placed in balancing scales. In early times there was no common standard of weights and measures. Archeologists have found recovered weights that **vary several grams or even ounces.**
- 2.8.2. **A dishonest person would buy with heavier weights, and then switch to lighter weights to sell.**
- 2.8.3. Do we use the same measuring scale when it comes to **our own vs. other men's character?**
- 2.8.3.1. (Spurgeon) "Do we not turn **our ounces of goodness** into **pounds**, & **other person's bushels of excellence** in to **pecks?**"
- 2.8.3.2. How do we measure our **trials & troubles?** Do they have a standard?
- 2.8.3.2.1. Paul saw **his sufferings** as light afflictions. How do we weigh **ours?**
- 2.8.4. **Find & destroy all unrighteous balances, weights, & measures!**
- 2.9. **(37) Observe & Perform!**
- 2.9.1. See & Do!