

Laws That are Concerning

Leviticus Chapter 19

Lev 19:1 **1) Concerning Relationship with God** vs 1-8

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

Lev 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.'

- God is expecting His people to be separated (holy) from other people.
- This doesn't mean to live away from other people. This separate means to be distinctive from other people. The context is that this distinctive is that they are governed by a different set of rules that affects their behavior.
- God gives a simple reason that they are to be holy. They are to reflect their God. He is holy.

Lev 19:3 **Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the LORD your God.**

- Chapters 18, 19 and 20 are commands that are preparing Israel to inhabit the Promised Land. God is instructing them with these things so they may have longevity in the land. That this new nation will last and survive. In chapter 19 the first in the list is reverence parents.
- Reverence is to be in awe, to venerate, to bow before.
- In our culture it seems that parents are bowing before their children.
- Exodus 20 lists this as the 5th Commandment "*Honor your Father and Mother*"
- Lev 10:11, Deut 4:10, Deut 6:7, Deut 11:19 - TEACH THE CHILDREN and in one case it says to DILIGENTLY teach the children.
 - The Laws of God
 - To Love the Lord God with all their heart soul mind and strength.
- Keep Sabbaths (plural) - Weekly Sabbath (1 day in 7 for rest and worship) and 7 Holy Days (Passover and Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Sukkot *booths*, Day of Atonement Yom Kippur, Purim, Rosh Ha Shanna *trumpets*)
- It is interesting that keeping Sabbaths are tied to reverencing parents. It is parents who teach of keeping Sabbaths. Children do not learn this on their own. It is the parent's role to instruct and oversee that they are keeping the Sabbath.
- Exodus 20 lists this as the 4th Commandment "*Remember the Sabbath, keep it holy*"

Lev 19:4 **Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods; I am the LORD your God.**

- Throughout Israel's history, Israel had a problem with this until after the Babylon Captivity.
- Psalm 115:4-8 "*Their idols [are] silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; [so is] every one that trusteth in them.*"
- Habakkuk 2:18-20 "*What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, Or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork When he fashions speechless idols. Woe to him who says to a piece of wood, 'Awake!' To a mute stone, 'Arise!' And that is your teacher? Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, And there is no breath at all inside it. But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.*"
- 1 Corinthians 8:4 "we know that an idol is nothing"
- We see that idol worship is quite foolish. It is worshiping nothing. The seriousness is that man would worship nothing rather than worship the Creator God who redeems man from his sin.
- Today's Idols
 - Money
 - Pleasure
 - Accomplishment
 - Power
 - Our own goals
 - Our own ideas
 - Self (*Living to please self instead of pleasing God; 2 Cor. 5:9,14*)
 - Religion
 - Career
 - Material Things
 - Influence
 - Our own purposes
 - Our own opinions
 - Tradition
 - Success
 - Status
 - Position
 - Control

(It's not wrong to have these things; It becomes wrong when we begin to love these things and turn to them to satisfy and fulfill our self, and when we love these things more than we love God)

- Exodus 20 Lists this as the 1st and 2nd Commandment "*No other God & Do not make Idols*"

Lev 19:5 'Now when you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted.

Lev 19:6 'It shall be eaten the same day you offer {it,} and the next day; but what remains until the third day shall be burned with fire.

Lev 19:7 'So if it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an offense; it will not be accepted.

Lev 19:8 'Everyone who eats it will bear his iniquity, for he has profaned the holy thing of the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from his people.

- The peace offering was a voluntary offering.
- It was eaten on the same day and possibly even to the next day but burned the third day. It was not to become stale.
- Again, it is interesting that of all the offerings God brings up the free will / voluntary offering. He desires our devotion to be from our desire not from compulsion.
- But the free will / voluntary devotion does not mean we can come to Him and do anything we desire. God's nature and holiness demands appropriate respect in our approach and devotion to Him.

Lev 19:9 **2) Concerning Relationship with the Poor** vs 9-10

'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

Lev 19:10 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.

- The farmers were not to harvest the entire field. The farmer would leave the corners and would not go through the field a second time (*the gleanings of your harvest*)
- This was left for the poor, the widows and those who were in a situation of unemployment. This was God's assistance program.
- Notice the farmer was not to harvest all and set some aside. Those that would come to glean the field, who needed the assistance, were required to do some of the work.
- In Ruth 2:2-3, this is what Nomi allowed Ruth to do when she met Boaz. "*And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.*"

Lev 19:11 **3) Concerning Relationship with Neighbors** vs 11-18

'You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another.

- Exodus 20 lists these at the 8th Commandment "*do not steal*"
- And the 9th Commandment "*Do not lie / bear false witness*"

Lev 19:12 'You shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

- Exodus 20 lists this as the 3rd Commandment "*Do not use the Lord's Name in Vain.*"

Lev 19:13 'You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob {him.} The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning.

- Speaking concerning keeping agreements. If you agreed to terms of payment and payment schedule God says to keep what was agreed.
- The employer cannot keep the wage until it is convenient for him. In this time period people worked for a days wage. Meaning the money they receive today goes for the food today. It is wrong to hold back pay creating hardship for workers.

Lev 19:14 'You shall not curse a deaf man, nor place a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.

- These things are simply mean.
- Even though this may be evident that they are wrong, man still will do these things. God has to tell man that these things are wicked.
- If you don't think people do these things, have you ever done or had anyone tell what we call an "inside joke" at your or someone else expense? This is just mean. The person who is the brunt of the joke cannot hear (know) the punchline. It makes them feel foolish.

- But then to take it to the next level and harm the disabled.
- "An accurate and revealing measure of our humanity is how we treat the weak and unfortunate." (Guzik)

Lev 19:15 'You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.

Lev 19:16 'You shall not go about as a slanderer among your people, and you are not to act against the life of your neighbor; I am the LORD.

- God demands judges to be just not showing Partiality.
- Jesus said in **Matthew 7:1-2** "Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you."
- Again, God does not want His people to slander / gossip about other people. In this passage God seems particularly with in the Family of God.

Lev 19:17 'You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him.

Lev 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

- You may find that you don't outwardly demonstrate HATE towards someone. This is good. But God takes it further. He says you cannot HATE in your HEART.
- One could rebuke but he cannot HATE.
 - A proper rebuke is an act of love. It is done with the intent of encouragement, correction and restoration.
 - If someone has vengeance or hatred in their heart when bringing a rebuke it would be better for them to wait and pray for an appropriate heart attitude.
- **Romans 12:19-21** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."
- Bearing a grudge usually I have found hurts the grudge bearer more than it ever wounds the one grugged. You never really hear someone say that they are wounded because someone had a grudge against them but I have seen people become physically sick when they cannot forgive.
- "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" -
 - Jesus taught this was one of the top two Commandments **Matthew 22:36-40** "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."
 - Jesus took this further when He taught **Matthew 5:43-46** "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"
- Some people have used this commandment to show that we should nurture love for ourselves. But it isn't necessary.
 - **Ephesians 5:29** "no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it"
 - **2 Timothy 3:1-2** "But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self"

Lev 19:19 **4) Concerning Various Situations** vs 19-37

'You are to keep My statutes. You shall not breed together two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor wear a garment upon you of two kinds of material mixed together.

- God is putting before Israel the concept that things are not to be mixed. That truth cannot be mixed with a lie, righteousness with unrighteousness and faith with unbelief. Everything created was to bring this principal to remembrance.
- To be Holy simply means to be separate. God is a God of Separation. He separates the

- Light from Darkness Genesis 1:4
- Waters above and below the expanse Genesis 1:7
- Israel from other Peoples Leviticus 20:26
- The Levites from other tribes Numbers 8:14
- The Nations Matthew 25:31-34
- Sheep from Goats Matthew 25:33
- Wheat from the Tares Matthew 13:24-30

- 2 Corinthians 6:14 *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?"*
- 1 John 1:5-7 *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."*
- Leviticus 11:44,45; 19:2, 1 Peter 1:16 - *"Be holy for I (the Lord) am Holy"*

Lev 19:20 'Now if a man lies carnally with a woman who is a slave acquired for {another} man, but who has in no way been redeemed nor given her freedom, there shall be punishment; they shall not, {however,} be put to death, because she was not free.

Lev 19:21 'He shall bring his guilt offering to the LORD to the doorway of the tent of meeting, a ram for a guilt offering.

Lev 19:22 'The priest shall also make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the LORD for his sin which he has committed, and the sin which he has committed will be forgiven him.

- This woman is a slave, engaged to another man but has a sexual relationship with a man of the house that owns her there is sin. Normally if she were a free woman this would be adultery and deserving of death. But because she was a slave she is only scourged (whipped)
- The man must bring a guilt offering before the Lord.

Lev 19:23 'When you enter the land and plant all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; {it} shall not be eaten.

Lev 19:24 'But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, an offering of praise to the LORD.

Lev 19:25 'In the fifth year you are to eat of its fruit, that its yield may increase for you; I am the LORD your God.

- Forbidden = KJV uncircumcised forbidden is appropriate translation in this passage
- God is preparing Israel for the Promised Land. He is telling them to let the fruit trees rest for 3 years and they will be more fruitful in the fourth year. And edible in the fifth year.
- Patience is necessary to bear fruit.

Lev 19:26 'You shall not eat {anything} with the blood, nor practice divination or soothsaying.

Lev 19:27 'You shall not round off the side-growth of your heads nor harm the edges of your beard.

Lev 19:28 'You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the LORD.

- Again God desires His people to be distinctive from surrounding peoples. Drinking Blood, Divination (enchancements/witchcraft/pharmakea), Soothsaying (observing times/horoscopes), Contemporary designer Haircuts, Body Sculpting, Tattoos were all practices of the surrounding people.
- Some Bible teachers refer to these Haircuts, Cutting, or Tattooing being prohibited because of a particular custom *"for the dead"*
- Just because everyone is doing it does not make it right. Throughout this chapter, God is making the point that Israel is to be distinct from the people in the land.
- 1 Corinthians 10:23 *"All things are lawful, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful, but not all things edify."*
- For those who want a tattoo, 2 questions arise, how do you interpret this prohibition? And if you are to be "led of the Spirit" has the Holy Spirit told you to mark your body?

- Lev 19:29 'Do not profane your daughter by making her a harlot, so that the land will not fall to harlotry and the land become full of lewdness.
- Lev 19:30 'You shall keep My sabbaths and revere My sanctuary; I am the LORD.
- Lev 19:31 'Do not turn to mediums or spiritists; do not seek them out to be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God.
- To profane you daughter by making her a harlot - was a pagan practice of offering her to the pagan temple for ritual prostitution.
 - Mediums and spiritists were again pagan practices of contacting the dead or a familiar spirit to gain information for the future.
- Lev 19:32 'You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.
- Lev 19:33 'When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong.
- Lev 19:34 'The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.
- Honor the elderly and God is honored
 - If a stranger or foreigner abides with you he becomes your neighbor and all the rules of loving your neighbor (do him no wrong) applies for him also.
- Lev 19:35 'You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measurement of weight, or capacity.
- Lev 19:36 'You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin; I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt.
- A little sin is sin entirely.
 - Just weights were necessary to not show partiality or not to defraud your neighbor.
- Lev 19:37 'You shall thus observe all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them; I am the LORD.' "
- If the Lord God is our Lord we are obligated to Him. He also has obligated Himself to His people.

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