



# The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 05.05.21

## BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 13.THE MANUAL OF HOLINESS - Leviticus 17-26

### Part 3 - GOD'S WORD ON SOCIAL WELFARE - Ch.19

The 9 chapters of The Manual of Holiness cover different areas of life - Leviticus Ch.19 focuses on the way we engage with one another. It has been described as "**One of the world's greatest ethical charters**". It covers all of the 10 Commandments except for the first which is taken as understood.

### INTRODUCTION (vv1-2) - "Be holy because I am holy"

- *Ch.18* - focused on the family.  
*Ch.19* - focuses on how all these families in a society are to behave.
- *vv1-2* - simple initial instruction "Be holy as I am holy" is the heart of both the book of Leviticus and this particular chapter. (*v3* and onwards - "how" that can be done)
- Holiness - is spiritual but involves activity - obedience to God's word:  
*Luke 6:46; John 14:21,23; James 1:22; 1 Samuel 15:22.*
- It is the responsibility of every individual to be holy

### **APPLICATION:**

- "*Be holy as I am holy*" - still stands today. *Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15.*
- By God's grace holy living is possible.
- If the church is to be holy - individuals have to be holy and must take that responsibility.

### 1. FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES (vv3-10)

Language: "I am the Lord Your God" at the end of each law - a reminder that God chose them, rescued them and expects loyalty from them.

#### **a) There are things that they need to "honour" (v3)**

- 2 commandments covered here - honouring one's parents and the Sabbath day (honouring the Sabbath repeated in *v.30*). Ignoring these not good for any society.

#### **b) There is something to "reject" (v4)**

- Idolatry is to have no part in Israel's life. They belong to God and are to worship Him alone in the way He commanded.

#### **c) There are things they need to remember (v5-10)**

This is a section about the fellowship offering and harvesting. God uses the treatment of food to show the correct attitude towards Him and others.

- *vv5-8* - The way they treat God's food matters - a correct attitude to God is required.

- vv8-10 - through allowing the "hungry" to glean from their fields of harvest shows the correct attitude to the hungry and the marginalised in society that God wants from His people. Holiness expressed in generosity.

#### **APPLICATION:**

- We have lost sight of the command to honour our parents and the Lord's Day.
- We are an idolatrous society - *Colossians 3:5* "...covetousness which is idolatry".
- We have lost sight of God's provision for us and grab things for ourselves before giving to the poor.
- We should be obedient to God and we should demonstrate respect and generosity to each other.

## **2. FRIENDSHIP ISSUES (vv11-18)**

Language: "I am the Lord" at the end of each section

vv18 - *"love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord"*

### **a) Matters of Integrity (vv11-12)**

- v11 - 8th & 9th Commandments (stealing/lying);
- v12 - 4th Commandment (swearing falsely/profaning the Lord's name).

### **b) Matters of Exploitation (vv13-14)**

- All people to be treated with respect
- Special mention made of the marginalised in society (deaf, blind, disabled..)

### **c) Matters of Justice (vv15-16)**

- No bias in society; rich and poor to be treated alike.
- Everyone to be treated fairly and not to be exploited in any way.

### **d) Matters of Love (vv17-18)**

- Focus on "inner attitudes" - we must not harbour bitterness and hatred.
- "Holiness" is about the "inner man" - God wants us to be like Him in heart and mind, not just on our outward actions.

#### **APPLICATION:**

- Jesus confirmed many of these issues in his Sermon on the Mount
- Jesus emphasised the importance of the "spirit" of the law - not just the "letter" of it.
- Often His requirements exceeded that of the Old Covenant.  
See *Matthew 5:43-48* - *"love your enemies"*.. this ends with the reference to Leviticus: *"Be perfect therefore as Your heavenly Father is perfect."*
- Holiness is about: Doing the right things, Not doing the wrong things **AND** having the right attitude.

### **3. FAR REACHING ISSUES (vv19-37)**

Language: This section opens with v19 - "*Keep my decrees (statutes)*".

Underlying meaning of decrees/statutes = boundaries.

- a) Respect for boundaries (v19)** - the principle of respecting God's created order.
- b) Respect for people (vv20-22, 29, 32-36)** - common theme of respecting all others.
- c) Respect for nature (vv23-25)** - The principle here: The land we live in is a gift from God.
- d) Respect for God! (vv26-28, 30-31, 37)** - Whilst the whole chapter is about respect for God - these verses focus in on this.
  - i) A reminder not to eat blood;
  - ii) A warning not to use divination or witchcraft to try and see into the future.  
See *Isaiah 8:19-22*. Only God knows the future.
  - iii) Other prohibitions - hairstyles, beards and tattoos - "*For the dead*" - implies it was wrong for the Israelites because it was like the pagan worship of that time.  
See *Jeremiah 48:35-37*.
  - iv) Prohibition on trying to contact the dead through mediums - God alone is our source of information about this world and the next.

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter is frequently referred to in the New Testament:

- Jesus - *Matthew 5*
- Peter - *1 Peter 1:16*
- James - *James 2:8-9* - Here James refers to it as the "Royal Law" and goes on to reference it several times more.

The underlying principles of this chapter are still the basis of how God wants us to treat Him and His people and ultimately the whole of society today.