

I. Children's Sermon: Beautiful Cloths

1 Peter 3:1–6 (NLT)

¹ In the same way, you wives must accept the authority of your husbands. Then, even if some refuse to obey the Good News, your godly lives will speak to them without any words. They will be won over ² by observing your *pure and reverent lives*. ³ Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. ⁴ You should *clothe yourselves* instead with the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of *a gentle and quiet spirit*, which is so precious to God. ⁵ This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful. *They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.* ⁶ For instance, Sarah obeyed her husband, Abraham, and called him her master. You are her daughters when you do what is right **without fear** of what your husbands might do.

Notes:

Key Idea

The requirement for a undefiled bride for the High Priest is a picture of the spotless bride of Christ.

II. Priests & Sacrifices (Lev.21-22) Passage Outline

A. Priests: Blood Bonds (Leviticus 21:1–9)

B. High Priest: Holy (Leviticus 21:10–15)

Leviticus 21:12–15

¹² He shall *not go out of the sanctuary*, lest he profane the sanctuary of his God, **for** the *consecration* of the *anointing oil* of his God is on him: I am the Lord. ¹³ *And he shall take a wife in her virginity.* ¹⁴ A widow, or a divorced woman, or a woman who has been defiled, or a prostitute, these he shall not marry. *But he shall take as his wife a virgin of his own people,* ¹⁵ that he *may not profane his offspring* among his people, for **I am the Lord who sanctifies him.**"

1. "...not go out of the sanctuary"
2. "Take a wife...a virgin of his own people" ... "not profane his offspring".

Exodus 29:9

...And the priesthood shall be theirs by a statute forever. Thus you shall ordain Aaron and his sons.

- C. "Unblemished" Priests (Leviticus 21:16–24)
 1. Could not present the offering
 2. Could eat the holy food

Leviticus 21:21–23

²¹ No man of the offspring of Aaron the priest who has a blemish shall come near to offer the Lord's food offerings; since he has a blemish, ***he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God.*** ²² ***He may eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy*** (Lev. 6:16, 26) ***and of the holy things*** (Lev. 22:10), ²³ but he shall not ***go through the veil*** or ***approach the altar***, because he has a blemish, that he may not profane my sanctuaries, for ***I am the Lord*** who sanctifies them."

III. A Gospel Grid: From Shadow to Reality

- A. What does the Virgin Bride Picture?

2 Corinthians 11:2

...I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, ***to present you as a pure virgin*** to Christ.

Ephesians 5:25–27

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as ***Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,*** ²⁶ ***that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,*** ²⁷ ***so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.***

- B. What does the "Blemished" Priestly Restrictions & Privileges Picture?

“That is not how things were created and it is not how things are in God’s heaven; nor is it what God has in store for the future. The restrictions therefore taught the people that all physical defects and illnesses are ultimately incompatible with God’s holiness. ... ¹

Isaiah 56:3–5

³ Let not ... the **eunuch** say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.” ⁴ For thus says the Lord: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and **hold fast my covenant**, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.

Isaiah 25:8

He will **swallow up death** forever; and the Lord God will **wipe away tears** from all faces, and **the reproach of his people he will take away** from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

...All these symbolic restrictions, along with the priesthood itself, have been ~~abolished~~ [overcome] with the coming of Christ our great High Priest. His **miraculous healings** can only be understood against the background of these old-covenant symbolic laws relating to disability and purity.” [editing mine] ¹

Matthew 15:29–31

³⁰ And great crowds came to [Jesus], bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, **and he healed them...**

C. The Reality of the Miraculous Transformation of Christ’s Bride

Ephesians 5:28–30

²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, **but**

¹ **Eveson, P. H.** (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (292). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,³⁰ because we are members of his body.

1 Corinthians 15:50–55

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*, nor does the *perishable* inherit the *imperishable*.⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Revelation 19:6–9

⁶ Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.”⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, *for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready*; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.⁹ And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

Key Idea

We have been set apart to be the spotless bride of Christ, so let us separate ourselves from the sin that so easily entangles and draw near to God.