

Message #13**Leviticus 7:20-27**

Once one has come to faith in Jesus Christ, he does have everlasting life. However, that does not mean one is guaranteed to have close intimate fellowship with God on earth. Salvation comes through faith and sanctification comes through faithfulness.

There were obviously some in the nation Israel who thought much like this. They thought that because they were Israelites that automatically meant they had wonderful fellowship with God. Truth is in order to have wonderful fellowship with God they needed to be obedient Israelites. If they were not obedient they could be **cut off**.

GOD IS A GRACIOUS GOD WHO DESIRES TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIS PEOPLE, BUT IF HIS PEOPLE CROSS CERTAIN LINES AND DO CERTAIN THINGS, HE WILL BRING A DIVINE JUDGMENT AGAINST THEM.

A peace offering was an offering that was offered by a person who had obtained forgiveness and cleansing from sin and was at peace with God and desired to fellowship with God. The peace offering followed the forgiveness offering. In other words, one could not have fellowship with God until one had been forgiven of sins. However, bringing a peace offering to God was serious business. Fellowship with God is serious business and one who thinks lightly of this risks judgment.

Now I want us to clearly understand what it means to be “cut off.” In the O.T. there are nearly 20 different offenses that one could commit that would cause God to cut them off from the fellowship. The idea of being cut off was the idea of God actually judging one of His own children by turning His face of blessing against that child even to the extent of ending the person’s life (Lev. 17:10; 20:3, 5, 6; 23:29-30). This judgment appears to have been a direct judgment of God and it was not a judgment that was carried out by any civil court. There seems to be two main areas of sin for which God would pronounce this judgment: 1) Sins of a religious nature; 2) Sins of a sexual nature. Sins in these arenas could actually cause God to issue a “cut off” judgment.

Now one may think well, this is just O.T. teaching about God and it does not have any real connection to the N.T. Grace Age. Think again. The Apostle Peter wrote to N.T. believers that God can turn His face against those who do evil (I Pet. 3:12). The writer of Hebrews warned N.T. believers it was a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31). The Apostle Peter said to believers, in the context of the judgment seat of Christ, “Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord we persuade men” (II Cor. 5:11). Paul also said that for this cause—refuse to face sin—many believers are weak, sick and dead (I Cor. 11:30).

CUT-OFF SIN #1 – If a person ate a portion of the fellowship offering in an unclean state, he would receive a cut-off judgment. **7:20**

God wanted His people clean.

What this means is that this person needed to offer the offerings that would make him clean before he entered into fellowship with God. If someone refused to offer those offerings and just partook of the fellowship sacrifice in his unclean state, God would pronounce the cut-off judgment. Now the only person who would really know if the person were in an unclean state or a clean state would be the individual and God.

CUT-OFF SIN #2 – If a person has touched anything unclean and then eats of the fellowship portion, he will receive a cut-off judgment from God. **7:21**

- 1) One was not to touch an unclean human.
- 2) One was not to touch an unclean animal.
- 3) One was not to touch any unclean detestable thing.

Now there is a key principle to see here –jj that which you associate with can condemn you in the sight of God.

CUT-OFF SIN #3 – If a person eats any fats which belongs to God, God will pronounce a cut-off judgment on the person. **7:22-25**

The fat was the best of the animal and God demanded the best be given to Him. Therefore, one who thought he could sneak some fat off an animal for his own consumption would discover he would be the recipient of the judgment of God.

CUT-OFF SIN #4 – If a person ate any blood of any bird or animal anywhere, that person would receive the cut-off judgment of God. **7:26-27**

Now the blood is that which makes atonement for sin (Lev. 17:11). It is the life that is found in the blood that God deems can atone for sin. Therefore, for one to eat the blood of any animal is a detestable thing that can bring a cut-off judgment from God.

PARTING THOUGHTS:

- 1. God can give us His blessings or His judgments—our staying away from unclean things determines which we will receive.**
- 2. Certain sins are more serious than other sins in the mind of God.**
- 3. If we are going to have fellowship with God, all sin must be faced and forgiven.**
- 4. God can give an abundant life to a person and He can take the life of a person.**