

## Message #28

## Leviticus 15:16-33

There is absolutely no doubt about this fact in the book of Leviticus; the place where one goes to worship God is to be a holy place. God's place of worship is not some free-for-all gymnasium—it is to be a place that is clean and it is to be a place that reverences God.

Now there are many people who think they can worship God in any condition or state. One must worship God meeting His standards and His standards demand that one be clean.

Look carefully at **verse 31**—if one were to go to the tabernacle in an unclean state, one could die.

**IN ORDER TO ENTER INTO FULL FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP OF GOD, ONE MUST BE CLEAN IN EVERY AREA OF LIFE, WHICH MEANS ONE MUST BE WILLING TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIS UNCLEANNESS AND TAKE GOD'S PRESCRIBED STEPS IN ORDER TO BE CLEAN.**

**PART #1** – The normal male discharges that make one unclean . **15:16-18**

Now the pagan religions of the Mosaic time period featured sexual activity. In fact, pagan religions taught people that sexual activity should actually take place in worship ceremonies because it demonstrated to the various “gods” that they wanted their blessings of fertility in all areas of life.

Any male who had a seminal emission was unclean until evening (**15:16**) after he had bathed his body in water. Anything that had any seminal emission on it, such as furniture, was unclean until evening after it had been washed (**15:17**). If a man had sexual relations with a woman, both were unclean until evening and both needed to bathe in water (**15:18**).

Obviously, this kept any form of sexual activity out of the Tabernacle. **Here is a principle that is to be seen—there is to be no form of sexual activity in the place where God is worshipped.**

Remember this—anything sexual outside of marriage is defiled and it will defile us before God.

**PART #2** – The normal female discharges that make one unclean. **15:19-24**

Now the normal female discharge is her monthly period. During the menstruation time a woman was in a state of impurity for seven days and anyone who touched her was unclean until evening (**15:19**). Whatever the woman touched during this time was unclean and whoever touched anything she touched was unclean (**15:20-23**). If a man had sexual activity with a woman during this time, he was unclean for seven days just like the woman (**15:24**).

Now the word for menstrual uncleanness is the Hebrew word “niddah.” The word actually means to be unclean in the sense of being filthy and abominable in God's sight (Gesenius, p. 534).

This particular word is used metaphorically to describe Israel's unclean sin against God—II Chron. 29:5; it is used to describe unclean people who were not God's people, who were to receive no mercy—Ezek. 9:11; it is used to describe Israel's practices and lifestyle which were detestable in God's sight—Ezek. 36:17. If we look at these metaphors, we see that God expects us to be harsh on things that are not clean in our own lives. He wants them eliminated so we may be clean. **The only blood that God permits in His Tabernacle is the blood of a sacrifice that makes sinners right with Him. It was an abomination to have any other blood flowing in His place of worship.**

**Also, the prohibition against sexual intercourse during menstruation sends an important holiness principle to us; namely, sexual matters should not be one's obsession in life.**

**PART #3** – The abnormal female discharges that makes one unclean. **15:25-30**

If a woman had a discharge not related to menstruation, she was unclean as long as the discharge would last (**15:25**). Anything she touched became unclean (**15:26**) and anyone who touched anything she touched became unclean (**15:27**) and needed to bathe. The only clean blood to be touched is the blood of God's sacrifice.

After the discharge stopped, the woman had to wait an additional seven days before she could be ceremonially clean again (**15:28**). On the eighth day after the cessation of the discharge, she was to bring an offering to the Tabernacle; one for a sin offering and another for a burnt offering (**15:29**).

Now these regulations set the stage for an amazing story from the life of Jesus Christ in Mark 5:25-34. This was the account of an unclean woman who was brought before Jesus Christ. Think of this—the one perfectly clean allowed one unclean to touch Him and He was the only one who could make her clean. One is only made clean today by touching Jesus Christ by faith.

**PART #4** – The reason why these matters needed to be observed. **15:31-33**

The reason why these things needed to be observed was so that one would not die. You see being clean before God is a key to having a living relationship with God versus a dead relationship with God.

Holiness is to be practiced in any dispensation. Although we are clean in Christ, we need to make clean choices as Paul said to the N.T. Corinthians—"Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you" (II Cor. 6:17).