

Leviticus 11:1–47
Do We Eat for God's Glory?
April 7, 2013
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: How are you with rules?
1. Rule breaker... Selfishness
 2. Rule keeper... Less selfish but boastful
 3. Grace (humble service for God)

1 Corinthians 6:19b–20

*You are not your own,*²⁰ *for you were bought with a price.* So glorify God in your body.

- B. The Problem with Religion

Tim Keller quoted Jonathan Haidt "Religion can make you less selfish but it makes you more tribal." ..."Religion can create haughtiness"

- C. God's Rules: New Section (Leviticus 12-15)

Leviticus 10:10

You are to distinguish between the *holy and the common*, and between the *unclean and the clean*...

Romans 15:4a

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction...

II. Understanding, "Unclean", "Clean" & "Holy"

- A. *Increasing disorder and abnormality due to sin and its effects*¹

Clean	Unclean ²
normal	abnormal
pure	impure
natural	unnatural

¹ Eveson, P. H. (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (146). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

² Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (245). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

hale and hardy	weak
healthy	ill
pristine	contaminated
sinless	sinful

B. The Need for a “Clean” Camp

Leviticus 16:16 (Cf. Leviticus 15:31)

¹⁶ Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, ***because of the uncleannesses of the people*** of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, ***which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.***

C. Clean & Unclean Animals

1. Why were some creatures “clean” and others “unclean”?
2. How did these laws teach & protect Israel?
3. How do these laws help us understand the gospel of Jesus Christ?

III. Clean & Unclean Animals

- A. Why were some creatures “clean” and others “unclean”?
 - a. “God’s diet”?

Mark 7:18b–19

...Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (*Thus he declared all foods clean.*)

Colossians 2:16–17

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in ***questions of food*** and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ ***These are a shadow*** of the things to come, but **the substance belongs to Christ.**

- b. Arbitrary? (Issue is obedience)

c. Understandable categories?

“The law is not meant to be a modern scientific rule for discerning what is edible or not, but a rough and readily observable guide. It meant in practice that anything associated with decay and death, or which fed on blood and meat, or that reminded them of the serpent, was unclean.”³

[Read Leviticus 11:1-47]

B. How did these laws teach & protect Israel?

Leviticus 11:44a

For I am the LORD your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and *be holy, for I am holy.*

[Quote Ligon Duncan]⁴

Key Idea

God’s dietary laws were meant to teach his people that they were completely set apart for God’s special use. This remains an important lesson for us today.

C. How do these Laws Help us Understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

“...it was the ritual of the law that came to an end in Christ—not what the law revealed. The regulations were particularly for Israel and were temporary, but the revelation of God’s holiness and what it demands remains applicable for all.”⁵

1 Peter 1:15–16

...but as he who called you is holy, you also *be holy in all your conduct*,¹⁶ since it is written, “*You shall be holy, for I am holy.*”

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Acts 10:15

And the voice came to him again a second time, “**What God has made clean, do not call common.**”

³ Eveson, P. H. (2007). *The Beauty of Holiness: The Book of Leviticus Simply Explained*. Welwyn Commentary Series (154). Darlington, England: Evangelical Press.

⁴ **Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III**. Leviticus 11:1-47, “The South Sinai Diet”. Wednesday Evening, March 16, 2005. <http://www.fpcjackson.org>.

⁵ **Ross, A. P.** (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (246). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

2. The Effects of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
(How do we eat/not eat for God's glory?)
 - a. Eating is **for God** (unselfish, humble)

Romans 14:6b (Cf. **1 Corinthians 6:19b–20**)

...The one who eats, eats ***in honor of the Lord***, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains ***in honor of the Lord*** and gives thanks to God.

b. **For others**

Romans 14:14–15

¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that ***nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean.*** ¹⁵ For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer **walking in love**. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.

IV. Eating for God's Glory

- A. Ask good heart questions: Why do you eat?
Or... not eat? Who are you eating for?
- B. Avoiding the two tendencies of the flesh...
 1. Relativist: "God doesn't care..."
 2. Moralist: "God cares & I'm right!"
- C. For a Christian to Eat for God's glory...
 1. Be Thankful
 2. Jesus Must be King

Proverbs 23:20–21

²⁰ Be not among drunkards or among ***gluttonous eaters*** of meat, ²¹ for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and ***slumber*** will clothe them with rags.

3. Humility

Romans 14:4 (Cf. **1 Corinthians 6:19b–20**)

Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.