

## Message #34

## Leviticus 19:1-18

Have you ever stopped to consider this issue—what is the purpose of our salvation? Heaven will be a great finale to our salvation, but God has saved us for a purpose and that purpose is found right here.

**GOD HAS GIVEN HIS PEOPLE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO OBEY HIS WORD SO THAT HIS PEOPLE CAN EMULATE THE ATTRIBUTE OF GOD'S HOLINESS.**

You and I are to be examples of the character of God. **Now being holy as God is holy means that we pursue the kind of holiness He prescribes in His Word.** In other words, you and I do not invent what holiness is. We follow God's prescribed pattern for holiness.

**(Dimension #1)** – God's holiness features a pious worship of God—worship God according to His mandates.

**(Dimension #2)** – God's holiness features various responsibilities in regard to others—actions, attitudes toward other human beings.

The instruction concerning holiness is not mystical or magical; it is factual, actual and applicable. Holiness is demonstrated in daily life. **Verses 1-2** of chapter 19 give the opening charge—God demands that His people become holy. What that actually means in this context is that God demands that His people obey His Word as to what God views as holy.

**PREREQUISITE #1** – Holiness demands that children reverence their mother and father. **19:3a**

The word “reverence” is one that God often uses for Himself—“fear the LORD.” No person will ever be holy by God's estimation until they have a reverential estimation of their own mother and father. **Holiness always first begins in the home.**

**PREREQUISITE #2** – Holiness demands observing the Lord's days. **19:3b**

Of all of the Ten Commandments, the longest commandment given to Israel was concerning the observance of the Sabbath day (Ex. 20:8-11). In every dispensation there has been a day set aside to worship God and one cannot be holy in God's estimation if one does not take that day seriously.

**PREREQUISITE #3** – Holiness demands not worshipping false gods. **19:4**

Molten gods were idolatrous images made by men to be worshipped as some deity.

**PREREQUISITE #4** – Holiness demands worshipping God in His terms concerning His sacrifices. **19:5-8**

The peace offering we may recall is a voluntary offering. It still needed to be presented God's way. If one were to be holy, one had to take God's sacrificial system seriously.

**PREREQUISITE #5** – Holiness demands not being stingy with God's blessings, but being willing to share those blessings. **19:9-10**

Holy people are generous people. Dr. Rooker said of these verses: "a person who is characterized by greed, covetousness or stinginess cannot be a holy person" (p. 257).

**PREREQUISITE #6** – Holiness demands not stealing from each other and not lying to each other. **19:11**

**PREREQUISITE #7** – Holiness demands not swearing falsely using God's name. **19:12**

The idea here is one was not to make some legal claim that was untrue and throw God's name into the statement to add weight to the statement.

**PREREQUISITE #8** – Holiness demands proper, honest treatment of those associated with you. **19:13**

A holy person is not to oppress his neighbor or rob him and he is to pay those who work for him their wages.

**PREREQUISITE #9** – Holiness demands one does not mistreat any handicapped person. **19:14**

It is interesting to me that if a man were deaf and someone cursed him, he wouldn't hear it.

**PREREQUISITE #10** – Holiness demands that all judgments be impartial and fair. **19:15**

Holiness does not bend or color justice.

**PREREQUISITE #11** – Holiness demands proper relationships with God's people. **19:16-18**

- 1) We do not slander God's people. **16a** – "you cannot believe everything you hear but you can repeat it." Be careful what you say about others.
- 2) We do not destroy the life of our neighbor. **16b**
- 3) We do not hate our fellow countrymen in our heart. **17a**
- 4) We reprove our neighbor when we are wronged. **17b**
- 5) We do not take our own vengeance on God's people. **18a**
- 6) We do not bear any grudge against others. **18b**

Holiness is spelled out. It is not abstract. It is concrete. It is this kind of holiness that God wants us demonstrating to this world.