

# “BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY”

## Introduction

- 1) **1 Peter 1:13-16** – we are to be holy in all our conduct because “it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy’”
- 2) This quotation is taken from the Old Testament book of **Leviticus** (19:2)
  - a) The book of **Leviticus** is best known for its lengthy and intricate details about sacrifices, offerings, feasts, and special days, along with particulars about the Levitical priesthood, and many other various laws and regulations for the ancient nation of Israel
- 3) One of the major themes of Leviticus is **holiness** – God is holy, and man should be holy
  - a) **Holiness** is how we must regard God Himself to draw near to Him (Lev. 10:3; Jas. 4:8)
  - b) “**Holy**” (Gk. *hagios*) – different, sacred, set apart (2 Cor. 6:17)

## I) **Important Principles about Holiness in the Book of Leviticus**

### A) **Without Blemish** (Lev. 1:2-3; 22:17-22)

- 1) Christ was an unblemished sin sacrifice (1 Pet. 1:18-19; Heb. 9:14)
- 2) We must be diligent to be unblemished by sin (2 Pet. 3:14; Eph. 5:27)

### B) **Unleavened** (Lev. 23:4-6)

- 1) Unleavened bread was commanded by God the night of the Passover in Egypt and for the feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:1-28; 13:3-7; Deut. 16:2-4)
- 2) We are to be “unleavened” before God (1 Cor. 5:6-8)
  - a) Beware of the danger of the “leaven” of error (Matt. 16:6, 12)

### C) **Sweet Aroma** (Lev. 1:9, 13, 17; 2:2; 3:5, 16)

- 1) “Sweet” (Heb. *nichoach*) – pleasant, soothing, pleasing
- 2) It is pleasing to God because it is the “aroma” of humble obedience (cf. Gen. 8:20-21)
- 3) Christ was an offering and sacrifice for a sweet-smelling aroma (Eph. 5:2)
- 4) The sacrificial spiritual service of Christians is pleasing to God (Phil. 4:18)

### D) **Atonement** (Lev. 1:4; 17:11; 16:30)

- 1) Animal sacrifices a shadow and insufficient – Christ is true sacrifice (Heb. 10:1)
- 2) We are sanctified by the blood of Jesus – forgiveness and redemption (Heb. 10:10-14)

## II) **Distinguishing Between What is Holy and What is Unholy**

### A) Obedience to God’s will, not man’s (Lev. 10:1-3, 8-11)

### B) Need to be set apart [sanctified] to be holy as God is holy (Lev. 20:26; 11:44-47)

### C) Sin causes spiritual sickness (Lev. 18:24-30)

### D) The motivation and pattern for our holiness is God’s holiness (Lev. 19:2)

- 1) Our lives must reflect the fact that we follow the one, true, and holy God (19:3ff “I am the Lord your God”)
  - a) Honor father and mother (vv. 3, 32; Eph. 6:1-2)
  - b) Avoid idols (v. 4; 1 Jn. 5:21)
  - c) Provide for less fortunate (vv. 9-10; Jas. 1:27)
  - d) Not steal, lie, or use corrupt speech (vv. 11-12; Eph. 4:25-29)
  - e) Treat others fairly, justly, and lovingly (vv. 13-18, 33-34; Rom. 13:8-10)
  - f) Honor God’s law and sanctuary (vv. 30, 37; 1 Tim. 3:15; 4:16)

## Conclusion

**Holiness** is very important to God – His people and their lives must be holy just as He is holy. If this was important then, should it not be more so now in Christ? Let us take time to be holy and pursue holiness daily.