

INTRODUCTION: HOLINESS BY MEANS OF PUNISHMENT

A. CRIME (c.18; “shall not”)

B. LOVE (c.19:17,18; 34; see Rom.13:10; Mt.22:37f(Ex.20:1f))

C. PUNISHMENT (c.20; “if,then”; see 18:24f)

D. HOLINESS: WATER & OIL (c.20; v.7,8; 22-26; see c.8; Ruth 3:3; see 1Cor.5:13 (Dt.13:5,etc.); Mk.9:43f; see Col.3:9,10; 5f,12f; see Dt.11:29(c.27f); Lev.26:1f&14f)

POINT: REMOVE THE WICKED FROM AMONG YOU (Lev.20; see 1Cor.5:13(Dt.13:5,etc.))

A. CRIMES: DIVINELY DEFINED (idolatry & immorality; Ex.20:1f; Rom.1:18f)

1. #1: other gods (1-6,27; see Ex.20:3-7)

2. #5: other parents (9; see Ex.20:12; see Dt.21:18f)

3. #6: other partners (10-21; see Gen.2:18f; Mt.19:4,8; see 1Cor.5:1)

B. PUNISHMENTS: DIVINELY COMMANDED (c.20)

1. put to death: **public sins** in life, worship, family (2,4; 9-16; **agent**: people of the land, kinsman-redeemer, 2; **maximum**: aggravations/mitigations; Dt.19; Num.35)

2. cut off from life in community: **private sins** in family (17-19; see 3-5; see Rom.12:19; agent: God, 3f)

a. cut off from life in family: posterity (20,21; see Ps.127:3f)

3. restitution: **property** sins (see D,5 below)

C. PRINCIPLES: DIVINELY ESTABLISHED

1. the holiness of God (20:7,8; 24-26; 1-6,27; see 10:1-3; 2Sam.6:7)

2. the sanctity of his image bearers (20:9-26; Gen.9:6)

D. PURPOSES: DIVINELY DETERMINED

1. justice: satisfying God’s demands (Gen.9:6; Dt.32:4; Mt.6:12; Heb.2:17; 2Cor.5:21)

2. expiation: removing a community’s guilt (Gen.4:10,11; Lev.18:22f; Dt.21:1f; 1Cor.5:13; Rev.2:14f,20f)

3. deterrence: discouraging others from sin (Dt.19:20; 1Tm.5:20)

4. restoration: limits on punishment (Ex.22:2; Dt.21:22f; 25:3; see 19:15)

5. restitution: satisfying the victim’s loss

a. compensation (Lev.6:5; Ex.21; (+fifth; 2x; 4-5x); see Lk.19:8)

b. indentured servitude in lieu of compensation (Ex.22:2; 21:1f; Dt.15:12f; Lev.25:39f)

c. note: no fines or imprisonment

LESSONS: PRINCIPLES OF PUNISHMENT

A. GOD IS JUST AND DOES JUSTICE (see Gen.18:25; Rom.2:1f,5-11,16)

B. GOD WEIGHS MITIGATIONS & AGGRAVATIONS (Dt.19; Num.35; Lk.12:47f)

C. OBEDIENCE IS BLESSED & DISOBEDIENCE IS CURSED (c.20; see Lev.27; Dt.27,28; 30:1f; Ps.1)

D. ONLY PERFECT OBEDIENCE IS ETERNALLY BLESSED (see Rom.6:23; 2Cor.5:21; 1Cor.5:9f & 6:9-11)

E. ANYTHING LESS WILL BE ETERNALLY CURSED (Mt.7:23; 8:12(22:13; 25:30); Rev.20:10f & 21:4)

F. SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS & PROSPERING IN WICKEDNESS (2Cor.4:16f; 5:10,21; 1Pt.4:12f; 5:10f & Ps.73; Heb.11:25)

G. GOD COMMITS SOME JUSTICE TO MAN (1f; see Rom.13:1f; 1Cor.5:1f)

H. MAN’S AUTHORITY & POWER IN JUSTICE IS LIMITED (17f; see Dt.19:15; 1Tm.5:24)

I. GOD WILL SEE TO JUSTICE THAT IS BEYOND MAN (3f,17f; see Rom.12:19)

J. GOAL: RESTITUTION RATHER THAN INCARCERATION OR FINES (see D,5 above)

K. SOVEREIGNTY & RESPONSIBILITY IN HOLINESS (7,8; Ex.31;17; see Phil.2:12,13)

Brethren, what shall we do? (see Acts 2:37f)