

Leviticus 11-15  
*Discerning Our Problem with “Ritual” Purity Laws*  
April 21, 2013  
Sermon Outline

Notes:

**I. Introduction**

- A. Children’s Sermon: Seeing Sin (Luke 7:36–50)
- B. Be Holy!

**Leviticus 11:44a**

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

“Under the new covenant, believers are free to eat foods that were formerly prohibited, and they are not prevented from worshiping in local assemblies because of pregnancy or mildew in their houses. The many unclean things that required cleansing under the Levitical system require no such ritual now. **However, those laws revealed eternal truth and so remain intact: without holiness it is impossible to see the LORD.** Thus, the New Testament affirms that nothing unclean will enter the heavenly sanctuary, the presence of the holy LORD God.” (Bold Mine)<sup>1</sup>

- C. Why So Many Distinctions?

**Leviticus 10:10**

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

**Key Question:**

*What is God trying to communicate to his people by these ritual purity laws?*

**II. Why Even Have a Category of “Ritual” Purity**

- A. Ritual Purity Qualifies an Israelite to **Draw Near to the Holy God** via Sacrifice
  1. Chapter 11: (Separate from Unclean Food)
  2. Chapter 12-15: (Separate from “Dis-ease”)

<sup>1</sup> Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (246). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

### **Leviticus 15:31**

<sup>31</sup> “Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, **lest they die** in their uncleanness by defiling my tabernacle that is in their midst.”

B. Far as the Curse is Found...

### **Genesis 3:14–19**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord God said **to the serpent**, “Because you have done this, **cursed** are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; **on your belly** you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

<sup>16</sup> **To the woman** he said, “I will surely **multiply your pain in childbearing**; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

<sup>17</sup> And **to Adam** he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ **cursed is the ground** because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> **By the sweat of your face** you shall eat bread, **till you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

*What is God trying to communicate to his people by these ritual purity laws?*

#### **Answer**

*Sin has caused a much bigger mess than we realize and neither sin nor its defiling effects have any place in God’s holy presence.*

### III. **Discerning the Point of Ritual Purity Laws**

A. In Heaven, Neither Sin nor the Effects of Sin  
Have any Place

**2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1** (v. 6:16 cites Lev. 26:11–12)

<sup>16</sup> What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “*I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*” <sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, <sup>18</sup> and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

<sup>1</sup> *Since we have these promises*, beloved, let us ***cleanse ourselves from every defilement*** of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

**Hebrews 12:14**

***Strive for*** peace with everyone, and for the ***holiness without which no one will see the Lord.***

**Revelation 21:27**

But ***nothing unclean*** will ever enter it [The Heavenly City], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but *only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.*

B. The Glory of Our Salvation in Christ!

***No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.***

1. The Kingdom of Heaven Breaking In

**Luke 7:20–23**

<sup>20</sup> And when the men had come to him, they said, “**John the Baptist** has sent us to you, saying, ‘***Are***

*you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’ ”*<sup>21</sup> In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.<sup>22</sup> And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: *the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.*<sup>23</sup> And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

## 2. The Future Kingdom of Heaven Promised

### **1 Corinthians 15:51–55**

<sup>51</sup> Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and ***the dead will be raised imperishable***, and we shall be changed.<sup>53</sup> For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.<sup>54</sup> When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “***Death is swallowed up in victory.***”<sup>55</sup> “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

#### **Key Idea**

*Why did God instruct his people about the nature of ritual impurity? ... Because, in highlighting the true extent of the defiling effects of sin, He reveals the full extent of the cleansing power of His appointed Savior/King!*