

Message #35**Leviticus 19:19-37**

The book of Leviticus is a book that is designed to take us deep in our relationship with God through the development of a real and true holiness. Somehow we have been duped into believing that the primary goal of God and the Church is to make us happy—it is to make us holy.

Now we may notice from **verse 19** and again in **verse 37** there is a word that shows up—“statutes.” That Hebrew word is one that refers to definitive appointed laws which God has clearly defined (Gesenius, p. 300). We may also notice the emphasis on the pronoun “my.” These are God’s laws.

WE ARE TO BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY AND THAT MEANS WE WILL CARE-FULLY OBEY GOD’S WORD AND MAKE PROPER CHOICES AS WE LIVE IN THE MIDST OF A GODLESS WORLD.

Now in these verses there are ten regulations God sets forth for His people which He expects His people to obey no matter what is happening in the world around them.

REGULATION #1 – Regulation concerning mixtures. 19:19

- (Mixture #1) - Do not mix two kinds of cattle.
- (Mixture #2) - Do not mix two kinds of seed.
- (Mixture #3) - Do not mix two kinds of material.

God does not say why these things were not to be mixed, but the principle that we see here is that being holy means we do not mix in with certain things in life.

REGULATION #2 – Regulation concerning the slave woman. 19:20-22

Notice who seems to be to blame for this immorality—the man, not the woman.

REGULATION #3 – Regulation concerning fruit trees. 19:23-25

- (Mandate #1) - No fruit was to be eaten for three years.
- (Mandate #2) - All fruit was to be offered to the Lord on the fourth year.
- (Mandate #3) - Fruit could be eaten on the fifth year.

The principle is this—the land is the Lord’s and being holy is a matter of everyday life.

REGULATION #4 – Regulation concerning pagan practices. 19:26-28

Many of these regulations and laws had to do with the pagan practices of the Canaanites who were in the land that God was going to give Israel.

(Law #1) – Do not eat anything with blood. **26a**

(Law #2) – Do not practice divination or soothsaying. **26b**

(Try to gain extra information about things through sorcery.)

(Law #3) – Do not round off side growth of hair on heads. **27a**

(Law #4) – Do not trim the edges of your beards. **27b**

(Law #5) – Do not cut body in memory of the dead. **28a**

(Law #6) – Do not tattoo body in memory of the dead. **28b**

REGULATION #5 – Regulation concerning prostituting children. **19:29**

REGULATION #6 – Regulation concerning reverencing God's day and place of worship. **19:30**

Notice the Sabbath is God's Sabbath and the sanctuary is God's sanctuary.

REGULATION #7 – Regulation concerning the contact of spiritists. **19:31**

A medium or spiritists were those who tried to contact dead ancestors and spirits of those departed. It is interesting that the actual word “medium” is translated in the Septuagint “ventriloquist” which may imply just how phony spiritists really are.

REGULATION #8 – Regulation concerning the elderly. **19:32**

Elderly people are to be esteemed and honored. It is part of reverencing God. When we honor one elderly, we show we reverence God.

REGULATION #9 – Regulation concerning the stranger. **19:33-34**

Just because one was not a native did not mean he was not to be cared for and loved.

REGULATION #10 – Regulation concerning fair business. **19:35-36**

No one is to be cheated in business.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is what it means to be holy—obey God's Word in the middle of a godless world. How we act, the way we look, the way we behave, the way we love, the way we do business, the attitudes we have, what we wear, how we work—holiness is worked out in real life by the choices we make.