

Message #40**Leviticus 22:17-33**

As we have said time and time again throughout this book of Leviticus, being holy, once one has been covered by the blood, comes through sacrificial obedience that is in accordance with the Word of God. Holiness is not some mystical feeling but it is a concrete decision. Holiness is something that is connected to every aspect of life—from the fields, to the bedroom, to the place of worship.

In this great passage of Scripture there are at least five reasons why God's people should obey God's Word and be holy:

1. Because these are commandments of God. **22:31a**
2. Because He is the LORD. **22:31b, 33b**
3. Because we do not want to profane God's name by not living according to His Word. **22:32a**
4. Because it is God's will that He be sanctified by His people. **22:33**—We show we are set apart as people of God when we obey God's Word.
5. Because He delivered His people. **22:33a**

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO OBEY GOD AND BE VERY CAREFUL TO OFFER ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICES TO GOD.

There are things that God's people can do under the auspices of religious ceremony and worship that may be accepted by people which are totally unacceptable to God. Just because people are emotional and seemingly worshipful does not mean it is acceptable to God. To be acceptable to God, it must be in accordance with His Word. Anything not in accordance with His Word is not acceptable, regardless of appearance.

OBSERVATION #1 – God's Word is aimed at God's people. **22:17-18a**

Holiness is something only possible for God's people. The only people who have the potential of being holy in an acceptable way to God are God's people.

No person becomes holy by his own terms, but only by God's terms and God's terms demand faith in Jesus Christ.

OBSERVATION #2 – For an offering to be accepted by God, it must be without defect. **22:18-25**

In order for an offering to be acceptable in the sight of God, it had to be a male and it had to be free from any defect. If one offered an animal that did not meet this criteria, God would not accept it.

Unacceptable Feature #1 - An offering could not be blind. **22:22a**

Unacceptable Feature #2 – An offering could not have any broken bones. **22:22b**

Unacceptable Feature #3 – An offering could not be maimed. **22:22c**

Unacceptable Feature #4 – An offering could not have any unclean discharges. **22:22d**

Unacceptable Feature #5 – An offering could not have any skin diseases. **22:22e**

Unacceptable Feature #6 – An offering could not have any physical deformity or oddity.
22:23

Unacceptable Feature #7 – An offering could not be penilly damaged or castrated. **22:24**

Unacceptable Feature #8 – A damaged offering could not be accepted from a foreigner.
22:25

Unacceptable Feature #9 – An offering needed to be at least eight-days-old. **22:27**

Kaiser suggests that one reason for this was that the offering needed to be eaten and it wasn't good for eating until the eighth day.

Unacceptable Feature #10 – An offering could not consist of an animal and its mother on the same day. **22:28**

Life, even of animals, is to be viewed as sacred. Notice carefully **verse 28**—taking the life of the young is considered killing.

Now we know from Scripture all of these mandates were necessary because all of this was a picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, who knew no sin, was made to be sin on our behalf (II Cor. 5:21). The One who did not have any blemishes chose to become blemished for blemished people like us. For blemished people to offer up unblemished worship it must go through an unblemished sacrifice and that Sacrifice is Jesus. According to Hebrews 7:25-28 our Savior was holy, innocent, undefiled and separate from sinners. He needed no sacrifice for Himself, but He was our sacrifice.

Let me leave us with two applications:

1. Jesus Christ, the unblemished sacrifice, wants to purify us so that we might become holy, without defect—Eph. 1:4; 5:25-27; Col. 1:22.
2. As priestly believers (I Pet. 2:4-10; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6) we need to pursue an unblemished lifestyle (II Pet. 3:11-12, 14; Phil. 1:10; 2:14; I Thess. 5:12-23; Titus 2:11-14).