

How to Identify a Leper

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Leviticus 13

- I. Leprosy is THE type of sin in the Old Testament and a leper is the type of a sinner.
 - A. This means that we can look at these Scriptures and get the mind of God and the wisdom of God on sin and sinners and how we should deal with them.
 - B. A leper is extremely loathsome in his person, and in all he does.
 - C. Although looking at a real leper is almost unbearable to a normal person, the sinner is more loathsome in the sight of God than the full-blown leper is in ours.
 - D. There is no question or controversy over whether he is clean or unclean.
 1. His appearance – the raw, open flesh, the boils, the pus running out of his skin, his blinded eyes, his missing limbs, the fluids of his body running through his open skin, the smell of his rotting flesh, all leave no room for anyone to defend him as clean on the inside.
 - E. No one ever said, “All of us are lepers.” Or “We are all born lepers.”
 - F. No one ever said, “You have to right to call me a leper.” Or “I may be a leper on the outside, but on the inside I am clean.”
 - G. The leper had no say in the matter – it was the priest who declared him clean or unclean, and he had to judge by the instructions God gave in the law right here.

- II. There is normal and there is abnormal.
 - A. There is what is supposed to be and there is what is.
 - B. Not everyone was a leper.
 1. Not everyone is a habitual, practicing sinner, either.
 2. There are two kinds of people in the world – those who are under the dominion of sin, and those who are under the dominion of the Spirit of God and his Word.
 3. They who are under the dominion of sin are unclean.
 4. They who are under the dominion of the Spirit of God and the Truth of God are clean in God’s sight.

1 Corinthians 6:11 *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

- C. God made the human body with hair on the head, and on men’s faces.
 1. If the hair is falling out, something is wrong.
- D. God made the skin to cover our flesh
 1. If our flesh is exposed, then something is wrong, that is not normal.
- E. God made our skin to be smooth and even.
 1. If it has risings (boils and pimples), infected places, discoloration, sunken places, it is a sign that something is wrong and needs to be watched closely.
- F. So we know what a normal, clean person is supposed to look like – there are standards to go by.
 1. We know when we look on someone’s outward appearance if something is not right.

- G. Anything that varies from the standard of normal is to be inspected and watched.
 - H. When anything was not normal the person was set apart and kept from contact with others.
 - I. The possibility of this person who is not normal infecting others was a danger that was to be dealt with so as to prevent the spread of the disease and the sickness and death of others.
 - J. The way God prescribes to control the spread of this disease, which is a picture of sin, is to separate those who have it from those who do not.
- III. Leprosy was not always easy to detect, and usually took some time to determine whether the person was really a leper or not.
- A. There are a lot of things that can appear to be leprosy, but turn out to be something else.
 - B. They were inspected by the priest weekly until it was determined whether it was really leprosy, or just something else wrong.
 - C. Until it was determined for sure that it was not leprosy they were declared unclean and separated from everyone else.
 - D. Sin is that way, also.
 - 1. Sometimes things are not as they appear to be and we must not make quick judgments based upon what we suspect, but have not proven.
 - 2. But the wise thing to do is to keep your distance until you know for sure.
 - 3. “If in doubt – don’t.”
- IV. Everything a leper touches is polluted and defiled.
- A. If he drank out of a vessel, the vessel was defiled.
 - B. If he lay on a bed, the bed was defiled, and whoever sat on that bed after him was defiled, also.
 - C. He could not drink from a running stream where someone else might drink, or sit on a stone by a path where someone else might sit.
 - D. They were completely shut out of society.
 - E. They could not come to the house of God and make offerings.
 - F. They were completely shut out from God and others.
 - 1. This is the true state of the sinner.
 - G. Woe to the society that ignores the leprosy and pretends it does not exist and embraces the leper as he is and allows him into their sanctuaries and homes!
 - H. Woe to the people who give the leper access to the food and water supplies!
 - I. Woe to the people who give the leper full access to their children and loved ones!
- V. It is what issues out of the leper that defiles and pollutes everything he touches and spreads his disease to everyone he comes in contact with.
- A. It is the blood, and fluids that are issuing through his skin and out of his mouth that get on everything he touches.
 - B. So it is with the sinner – everything he does, no matter how noble, or how wholesome it may seem, is going to have his pollution on it.
 - C. Anything that comes out of him is going to be defiled and will defile whatever, or whoever it touches.
 - D. What is coming out of sinners that pollutes others?
 - 1. Perverted ideas and philosophies of life and God.
 - 2. Music
 - 3. Entertainment

4. Education
5. Inventions
6. Normalizing leprosy

VI. Even the garments of the leper were to be treated as defiled and filled with his disease.

[Leviticus 13:47-59](#)

[Jude 23](#) And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

- A. The priest was to inspect them weekly to see how the abnormality progressed.
 - B. The garment was to be burnt, or the bad spot torn out, depending upon how the evidence of the disease progressed.
 - C. The only way the garment was saved was if after washing it with water the leprosy disappeared.
 1. Then it had to be washed again, and then it was declared to be clean.
 - D. So if you have leprosy inside it will show on the outside.
 - E. It will be apparent in the clothes you wear.
 - F. Anyone who wears lepers' clothes will be a leper themselves before long.
- VII. There is a way for a leper to be cleansed and not be a leper anymore.
- A. This is in the next chapter.
 - B. But until a leper was cleansed, he was kept at a distance and separated from all that were not showing the signs of the disease.
 - C. When the leprosy broke out and made it's presence known he was brought unto the priest.
 1. This means that other people noticed and brought the matter to the person who was appointed by God to discern and determine what was wrong with him.
 - D. There was God-ordained authority about the matter of determining what was leprosy and what was not.
 1. It was not the people who decided each one for themselves.
 2. If they had done it that way the whole congregation would soon have been lepers, and everyone would have been infected.
 - E. There was no other way for the leper to be accepted back into society and fellowship than what was prescribed by God in his law.
 - F. Until they are cleansed from their leprosy those who are not lepers are to keep them at a safe distance
 - G. And to be very careful not to let any issue out of a leper touch them.