

Session #21: “SANCTIFY THE PRIESTS” — Leviticus 22:1-33

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (2nd floor, High School—top of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),
Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - philtwente@att.net
For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/index.html?sender=sermons>

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes and outline to commentaries on Leviticus by David Hocking, also to comments/notes from Pastor Chuck Smith, J. Vernon McGee and Jon Courson.

Questions:

- Can you do anything about your own holiness?
- Can you do anything about your position in holiness?
- v. 3 Can you cut yourself off from the presence of the LORD? If so, what would cut you off?
- Do you think that verse 25 might mean that monetary gifts should not be taken from unbelievers?
- If only sacrifices without defects are acceptable, how can you and I come to God?

The theme of the book is a “**CALL TO HOLINESS**” and the book divided into two parts: chapters 1-16 show us that the **WAY TO GOD IS BY SACRIFICE**, and chapters 17-27 reveal that our **WALK WITH GOD IS BY SANCTIFICATION** or “holiness.”

In chapter 17 we dealt with the issue of the “**CLEANSING OF BLOOD**”;

In chapter 18 we dealt with the “**COVERING OF OUR SEXUALITY**.”

In chapter 19 we examined the “**CONDUCT OF GOD’S PEOPLE**”

In chapter, 20 we saw the “**THE NEED FOR HOLINESS**”

In chapter 21, we looked at the “**THE STANDARDS FOR PRIESTS**”, including the regular priests as well as the high priest.

The key verses of the book deal with the command to be “holy” mentioned in *Leviticus 11:44-45; 20:7, 26; 21:8* as well as in chapter 19, verse 2 - “**Ye shall be holy; for I the LORD your God am holy.**”

The primary reason for the command to be “holy” **is rooted in the character of God Himself**. He says, “**for I the LORD your God am holy.**” That principle and command for holiness among God’s people **especially** applied to the selection of priests.

We see **in this chapter a continuation on the expansion of holiness.**

In chapter 21, verse 6, we read, “*They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God*”. Verse 8 reads, “*He shall be holy unto thee for I the LORD, which sanctify you am holy.*” Verse 12 adds, “*I am the LORD.*” and verse 15 says, “*for I the LORD do sanctify him*” which is repeated again in verse 23 – “*for I the LORD do sanctify them*”.

The issue of chapter 22 is the **matter of the sanctification of the priests**, the **practical application of holiness** on the part of those whom God has separated for His service and His worship.

v. 2 - “**that they do not profane my holy name by what they dedicate to Me: I am the LORD**”

v. 9 - “**I the LORD do sanctify them**”

v. 16 - “**for I the LORD do sanctify them**”

v. 32 - “**I am the LORD who sanctifies you**”

The phrase “**I am the LORD**” is used **seven times** in ch. 22. The chapter is divided easily by the phrase, “**And the LORD spoke unto Moses, saying**” - it appears in vv. 1, 17, and 26. The last three verses stress the reason behind these instructions.

❖ 1A. THE PRIEST MUST BE **CLEAN WHEN OFFERING** THE SACRIFICES - 1-16

➤ 1B. It involves his **PERSONAL PRACTICES** - 1-9

The words in v. 2, “**that they sanctify themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel**” are translated by the NIV as “**treat with respect**” **2 Cor. 7:1**

- 1C. The **Seriousness** of being unclean - 3
“**that soul shall be cut off from my presence**” **Ps. 16:11; 51:11**
- 2C. The **Situations** that make him unclean - 4-8
 - ✓ 1D. Infectious disease - “leper”
 - ✓ 2D. Bodily discharge
“**a running issue**” or “**seed (sperm) goes from him**”
 - ✓ 3D. Defilement by touching

“touches any thing that is unclean by the dead”

NIV - “defiled by a corpse” vv. 5-6 – “touches any creeping thing”

- ✓ 4D. Death of an animal - 8

“dies of itself” or “torn with beasts”

- 3C. The **Sanctification** involves obedience to what God has commanded - 9
v. 6 - *“he wash his flesh with water”*

➤ 2B. It involves his **FAMILY PARTICIPATION** - 10-16

- 1C. The **Restrictions** are clear
“no stranger” or “hired servant” - 10 & 13b
v. 12 - no priests *daughter* who marries a *“stranger”*
- 2C. The **Responsibilities** are obvious
 - ✓ 1D. As to the “slave” - 11
 - ✓ 2D. As to the “daughter” who is widowed or divorced - has no child, and returns to her father’s house - 13
- 3C. The **Recompense** for a mistake is required - 14
cf. *Lev. 27:9-15* – *“fifth part”*

❖ 2A. THE PRIEST MUST BE **CAREFUL AS TO WHAT** IS OFFERED - 17-25

- 1B. It should be offered without **DUTY** or obligation - 19
“offer of your own free will”
- 2B. It should be offered without **DEFECTS** - 19-21
“without blemish”
- 3B. It should be offered without **DISABILITIES** - 22a
- 4B. It should be offered without **DISEASE** - 22b
- 5B. It should be offered without **DEFICIENCIES** - 23-24
- 6B. It should be offered without **DEFILEMENT** by a stranger’s hand - 25 cf. *Mal. 1:6-14*

❖ 3A. THE PRIEST MUST BE **CAUTIOUS ABOUT WHEN TO OFFER** A GIVEN SACRIFICE - 26-30

- 1B. When the animal has been weaned by its mother - 27
- 2B. When the animal is not killed at the same time as its young - 28
- 3B. When a person **does it willingly** and eats it the same day - 30 **How willing are you to give your best to the LORD?**

❖ 4A. THE PRIEST MUST BE **COMMITTED TO OBEYING GOD’S COMMANDS** - LEV. 22:31-33

- 1B. The **MEANING** of this commitment
 - 1C. **Rely** upon His commands
“keep my commandments” His Word is true! I rely upon it! *Cf. Mt. 22:36-40; Jn. 13:34-35; 14:15;*
 - 2C. **Respond** to His commands - *“do them”*
 - 3C. **Refuse** to profane His holy name! **Do you treat His name lightly?** *Cf. Ps. 75:1*
- 2B. The **MOTIVES** we should have:
 - ✓ 1C. **Recognize Who He is**
“I am the LORD” cf. Mt. 6:9
 - ✓ 2C. **Realize what He has done**
“I am the LORD who sanctifies you”
 - ✓ 3C. **Remember how He redeemed you and delivered you**
“that brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God”

Jer. 31:31; Ez. 36:25-27; Jn. 3:16-19; Heb. 13:15