

## Living Like You Belong to God

### Lesson Three: Our Call To Live Differently From The World

*“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be Ye Holy: For I Am Holy.” (1 Peter 1:15-16)*

As we saw in week 1, one of the tasks of the priests was to teach the people to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. In week 2 we learned that God’s people, the Israelites, were not to be like everyone else. They were set apart unto God. This distinction was to be evident in every area of their lives.

- A. **Observe:** The Israelites were commanded to make a clear distinction between things that are *holy* and the things that are *common*. In **Leviticus 11**, Moses taught his people the difference between the clean and unclean in regard to food, which would be one of the distinguishing marks between the Jewish nation and their pagan neighbors (**Lev. 11:41- 47**).

***Insight:*** To *consecrate* something is to devote or set it apart to the worship and service of God. The Hebrew word for consecrate has the same root as the word *holy*.

#### **Discussion:**

- From these verses we learn that God was serious about His people being separate and distinguished from others even in the food that they ate. He decided what was to be considered clean and unclean. God is holy and wanted His people to be holy.
- The Lord was asking the people to consecrate themselves. To consecrate oneself means to devote or set yourself apart for service of the Lord. According to **verse 44**, God was telling them to do this to be holy unto the Lord.
- God had every right to do this because, He made them, chose them as a nation unto Himself, and had brought them out of Egypt to be their God.
- According to **verse 47**, they were to make the distinction between unclean and clean, and between the edible creature and the creature which was not to be eaten. God was not primarily concerned about their physical health in these verses. He was concerned about their obedience and them being separated or distinguished from other nations.

- B. **Observe:** Let’s now look at **Leviticus 20:22-26**.

#### **Discussion:**

- God gave the people several instructions:
  - Keep all of His statutes and commands; to not follow the customs of the nations that He would drive out before them.
  - They were to possess the land that He was giving them.

- We see the principles of separation and obedience in these passages that applies to believers today. God wants us to obey Him because we belong to Him.

C. **Observe:** Today, we don't view animals as being unclean, but the New Testament does identify certain things as unclean. In this next passage, **2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1**, Paul alludes to **Leviticus 11**.

**Discussion:**

- Like **Leviticus 11**, this passage calls for a separation—believers not being unequally yoked with unbelievers. Paul asks several questions: what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial (the Devil) or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
- Believers are not to be bound together with unbelievers because one person's conduct and direction of life can strongly influence or control others. This may cause immature, weak, or new believers to return to their former life. It may cause some to turn completely from following Christ.

D. **Observe:** As believers we are to be different from the world around us. Salvation should result in a lifestyle much different from our previous one (**1 Peter 1:14-16**).

**Discussion:**

- In this passage, believers are instructed to not be conformed to the former lusts which were theirs in ignorance (ignorance meaning life before being a disciple of Christ—old life (see **Gal. 5-19-21**)). They are also instructed to be holy in all of their (our) behavior.
- The word *but* signals a contrast is taking place. Here the former life before Christ is being contrasted with the new life in Christ.
- As God's children we should reflect His character. How are we doing? Do people look at us and see Him in all our behavior? How about our lifestyles, do they look the same as before we came to Christ, or do they reflect the nature of the One who gave us new birth and called us to be His own?

E. **Observe:** God often reminded the Israelites that he was the One who brought them out of Egypt, the one who set them free. Therefore, they were to be holy. Just as the Passover was instituted as a way to remember what God had done for the Israelites, so the Lord's Supper, or Communion, was instituted for the church to remember what Christ has done for us and, therefore, to keep in mind our responsibility to be holy (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**).

**Discussion:**

- We learn from looking at the words bread, cup, and the pronouns referring to them, that the bread represents the body of Christ, and the cup represents His blood. Each time we share the bread and the cup, we are to remember Jesus giving His body and blood as a sacrifice for us.

**Insight:** The phrase *in remembrance of Me* reflects the Old Testament idea of *zikkaron* or *memorial*. The Lord's Supper is a unique, holy occasion for the gathered church to remember each member's participation with Jesus in His death. The result should be that we live in a way that reflects Christ's sacrifice.

- Remembering Christ's death should be a grateful yet humbling experience for the believer. It should not simply be a historical fact for us. It is also an opportunity for us to think about our behavior and chose to live better.
- When we participate in Communion, we are proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes again.

F. **Observe:** The members of the Corinthian church were good at examining the lives of those around them. But like many Christians today, they weren't as good at examining their own lives (**1 Corinthians 11:27-32**).

### **Discussion:**

- If someone participates in the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner, Paul states that they are guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. The unworthy manner probably refers to the incompatibility of the Corinthian's divisive arrogance as compared to the sacrificial, other-oriented nature of Jesus' death.
- In **verse 28**, it states that a man (every participant) should examine himself. This examining one's self should involve repenting and asking forgiveness for any unconfessed sins before participating in the Holy Communion. Also, one should remember the nature of the unselfish, atoning death of Christ's death for others. We, too, need to let that fact impact how we treat others.
- For those that don't examine themselves, don't judge themselves rightly while participating in the Lord's Supper, or dishonor the Lord's Supper, the consequences can be weakness, sickness, and even death.
- In light of all we have seen concerning holiness this week, observing the Lord's Supper should encourage us to live like we belong to God.

### **Wrap It Up**

God is holy, and He delivered His people from Egypt so that they could be His holy people, His priestly nation revealing to a watching world that He is God. For this reason, God continually told His people to live differently. Every aspect of their lives, even down to the foods they ate, was to be different from the people around them.

It is no different for us today. The people of God are called on to maintain the holiness He has already granted us through His grace. God still says, in essence, "live differently, because I have made you different. Be what you are." Holiness is not something to be achieved by our own strenuous efforts. It is a state already created and given by God to His people.

**40 Minute Bible Studies: Living Like You Belong to God by Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson; The Scofield Reference Bible**

(Turn to **Ephesians 4:20-24**).

As we continue to immerse ourselves in the Word of God, as we are doing in this study, we are renewed in the spirit of our minds. The end result is that we are putting on the new self, created in the likeness of God.

However, it seems some Christians have forgotten all Christ has done for them and failed to be distinctively different from the world around them. They have not engaged in the Word so as to have the spirit of their mind renewed. The result is the church has been influenced by the world and its views rather than impacting the world with the truth of God. Too many times, the church looks like the culture surrounding it. It seems the church has become a thermometer, measuring the temperature of the world, when we should be a thermostat, setting the temperature to holiness.

Remember: You belong to God. Be holy, because He is holy.

**Next Week's Lesson:** God's Purpose in Setting Us Apart

**Homework:** Read **1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:9-17; Romans 12:10, 13:1-7**

*"Let's be doers of the word and not hearers only deceiving our own selves."  
(James 1:22)*