

THE GOSPEL STORY
UNDERSTANDING THE HOLINESS OF GOD
Leviticus 18-19

There are two parts to the book of Leviticus:

- Approaching God's presence (Leviticus chapters 1-17)
- Accepting God's precepts (Leviticus chapters 18-27)

Acknowledging God's holiness is core to understanding the book of Leviticus

A few thoughts concerning God's holiness:

- Holiness is considered the least attractive of God's attributes.
- The most often mentioned attribute of God in Scripture is God's holiness.
- The holiness of God is not only an Old Testament attribute of God but a New Testament attribute as well.

Leviticus chapters 18-19 apply the Ten Commandments to our relationships.

Leviticus 18:1-3

The command, "don't be like the unbelieving world" is mentioned 6 times in chapter 18.

- Why not? "I am the Lord your God." (42 times in chapters 18-27)
- This is based on the character of God to you and the claim of God over you.

Leviticus 18:4-5

From Leviticus 18:6-18:30, God gives instruction concerning the most intimate of relationships – sexual relationships.

This shows us that God wants to be part of the boardroom as well as part of the bedroom.

In Leviticus 18, God gives us twelve examples of who not to have sexual relations with.

Why these examples? Because these were all practices of the pagan cultures of Egypt.

- This is why we should never believe or follow the sexual practices of our culture.
- God the Creator knows what is healthy and not healthy for those created in His image.
- God is protecting the 7th Commandment and, by doing so, protecting the family.
- The way our culture defines sex is fashionable socially while at the same time fatal relationally.

Leviticus 18:29-30

In Leviticus 19, the Ten Commandments are repeated (not in order) and applied to everyday life.

Leviticus 19:1-2

When God pronounces something to be “holy” it does not change their intrinsic value, it simply means it’s set aside to worship God.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are set aside for the purposes of God.

Leviticus 19:3-4

The first commandment is to worship the true God. The second commandment is to worship the true God in the true way.

The first commandment is about Who – the second commandment is about how.

Leviticus 19:5-10