

THE LORD WILL BE SANCTIFIED: Leviticus 10:1-3

INTRODUCTION

John Flavel: "It is easier to cry against one-thousand sins of others than to kill one of your own." First look to yourself, then your local church, then and only then can you look to the visible church at large. May the Lord God gives us sanctifying grace to sanctifying His name in holy worship!

DOCTRINE: If the LORD's people will not sanctify and glorify Him when they draw near, He will sanctify and glorify Himself upon them.

I. WORSHIP OF THE LORD MUST BE OFFERED UP TO HIM ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF THE LORD (v. 1)

Leviticus 10:1 "Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized (*strange*) fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them."

II. THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS MORE PRECIOUS TO HIM THAN THE LIVES OF MEN (v. 2)

Leviticus 10:2 "And fire came out *from before* the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD."

Consider Korah's rebellion in Numbers 16.

- **Numbers 16:31-35** "31 And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. 32 And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. 33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. 34 And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up!" 35 And fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men offering the incense." (*Bad response by the people of Israel, therefore the LORD's wrath burnt against them and He sent a plague...*) 49 Now those who died in the plague were 14,700, besides those who died in the affair of Korah.

Consider Uzzah who touched the Ark of the Covenant in 2 Samuel 6.

- **2 Samuel 6:5-7** "5 And David and all the house of Israel were celebrating before the Lord, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. 6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the

oxen stumbled. **7** And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah, and God struck him down there because of his error, and he died there beside the ark of God. **8** And David was angry because the Lord had broken out against Uzzah. And that place is called Perez-uzzah to this day. **9** And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and he said, "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?"

Consider Annanias and Sapphira who lied to the Holy Spirit in Acts 5.

- **Acts 5:1-11** "But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, **2** and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? **4** While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." **5** When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. **6** The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much." **9** But Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things."

Consider Herod who did not give God the glory in Acts 13.

- **Acts 13:21-24** "**21** On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. **22** And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" **23** Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. **24** But the word of God increased and multiplied."

These kinds of events, such as Nadab and Abihu, happen so that you and I would learn or be reminded of this one fact: God is primarily for God!

- **You need to remember what Nebuchadnezzar sang in Daniel 4:35:**
"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand

- or say to him, "What have you done?"
- **Or if you are tempted to question what God has done here in Leviticus 10, or elsewhere, you should get alone and read Job 38:2-7:**
 - "2 "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?
 - 3 Dress for action like a man;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.
 - 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.
 - 5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?
 - 6 On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone,
 - 7 when the morning stars sang together
and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"

Mark it down:

The glory of the Lord is more precious to Him than the lives of men!

- **CALVIN:** "If we reflect how holy a thing God's worship is, the enormity of the punishment will by no means offend us."

Therefore

I) The glory of the Lord must be more precious to you than the opinions of men!

- **Let men say what they will**, you bind your conscience to the Word of God!
- **Worship Him in the ways He prescribes**, nothing more and nothing less, no matter what the world or those in the visible church might think!
- **You will not stand before men and give an account;** you will stand before the judgement seat of Christ.

Q. Is the glory of the Lord more precious to you than the opinions of men?

II) The glory of the Lord must be more precious to you than your own glory!

- **Jeremiah 45:5** "And do you seek great things for yourself? Seek them not."

Q. Is the glory of the Lord more precious to you than your own glory?

- **RQ1.** Have you sinned like Nadab and Abihu? Korah? Uzzah? Ananias? Herod? At least one of these ways I am sure you have! Why then has God not struck you down? **A.** The only reason can be His great patience and mercy!

Do not presume on mercy of the Lord! Repent of any will-worship now.

- **Romans 2:4** "Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?"
- **RQ2.** Do you see why we each need the Lord Jesus Christ to take our sin away by the blood of His cross? Look at what we deserve not just for

immorality but for will-worship (Leviticus 10:2)!

- **Praise be to God that** “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree...” (Gal. 3:13)

Q. Have you truly repented of your sin and embraced Jesus Christ by faith?

III. THE PEOPLE OF THE LORD MUST SANCTIFY HIS NAME IN WORSHIP, OR HE WILL SANCTIFY HIS NAME UPON THEM (v. 3)

Leviticus 10:3 “Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.’” And Aaron held his peace.”

- **CHARLES BRIDGES:** “This is an illustration of the same holiness we saw at Sinai, when He said, ‘Let the priests that come near to the Lord sanctify themselves, lest the Lord break forth upon them’” (Exodus 19:22).
- **CALVIN:** “Let us learn, therefore, so to attend to God’s command as not to corrupt His worship by any strange inventions. But if He so severely avenged this error, how horrible a punishment awaits the Papists, who are not ashamed obstinately to defend so many gross corruptions!”

Q. How do we sanctify the Lord’s name and glorify Him in His worship?

I) The LORD’s people must draw near to Him by faith in Jesus Christ!

- **Hebrews 7:25** “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”
- **Hebrews 11:6** “Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

II) Drawing near to God through faith in Christ, the church then must preach, sing, pray, baptize, feast, give, fellowship, practice discipline, and equip all according to the Word!

- **(I) The Church must PREACH (and hear) the Word!**
- **Like Paul commands Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the Word.”
- **Like Paul’s example in Acts 20:27,** “I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”
- **James 1:21** “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- **(II) The Church must must SING the Word!**
- **Ephesians 5:19-20** “19 [Address] one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of

our Lord Jesus Christ,"

– **(III) The Church must PRAY the Word!**

Matthew 6:9-13 "9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." *ALSO CONSIDER PRAYING THE PSALMS! **WE MUST ALSO LEARN FROM THE PRAYERS RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE IN ORDER TO GUIDE US IN WHAT IS APPROPRIATE TO FOCUS ON IN PRAYER!

– **(IV) The Church must BAPTIZE according to the Word!**

Acts 8:12 "When they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

– **(V) The Church must FEAST according to the Word!**

1 Corinthians 11:26 "As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

– **(VI) The Church must GIVE according to the Word!**

– **Philippians 4:18** "I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God."

– **1 Corinthians 16:2** "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."

NOW, 7,8,9 are not necessarily done in the offering up of public worship, but they do connect with everything that we do as a church.

– **(VII) The Church must FELLOWSHIP around the Word!**

Acts 2:42 "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

– **(VIII) The Church must PRACTICE CHURCH DISCIPLINE according to the Word!**

Matthew 18:15-17 "15 "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector."

– **(IX) The Church must EQUIP THE SAINTS with the Word!**

Concerning the WHOLE CHURCH, Paul tells the Church at Ephesus in

Ephesians 4:11-12 "11 [Christ] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry."

Concerning the MEN Paul tells Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2 "What you have

heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

Concerning the *WOMEN* specifically Paul tells Titus in Titus 2:4-5 "[The older women are to] train the young women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled."

The Church is a collection of living stones, and we must make sure we are stacked together in the way the Lord wants His spiritual house built!

Q. Is your Church worshipping according to the Word? Yours and mine must!

CONCLUSION

John Flavel: "It is easier to cry against one-thousand sins of others than to kill one of your own." First look to yourself, then your local church, then and only then can you look to the visible church at large. May the Lord God give us sanctifying grace to sanctifying His name in holy worship!

Leviticus 10:1-3

[1] Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron,
Aaron's oldest sons
Just previously appointed as priests

each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense
Fire-holder *conj.* *prep.* *conj.*

on it and offered **unauthorized** fire before the LORD,
prep. *conj.* *adjective* *prep.*
Strange

which he had not commanded them.
relative particle *negative particle* *(charged) given orders*

[2] And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them,
conj. *prep.* *prep.* *conj.* *(devoured) burned up ate them*

and they died before the LORD. [3] Then Moses said to Aaron,
conj. *(killed) executed to die as penalty* *prep.* ** Brothers* *prep.* *Brothers **

“This is what the LORD has said: ‘Among those who are near me
pronoun *relative particle* *spoke, saying* *prep.* *adj.*

I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.”
(consecrated) be hallowed be regarded as holy *conj.* *prep.* *adj. def.* *(nation)* *Be weighty* *Be honoured* *Be ascribed glory*

And Aaron held his peace.
conj. *(was silent) was giant*