



## **Understanding God's Law (Leviticus)**

When raising children, it is important to define, implement, and enforce boundaries for them. Boundaries allow kids to feel safe. Secure, consistent boundaries that are set and monitored by parents create predictability for children, which reduces anxiety. What happens when kids do not have boundaries? A lack of boundaries skews kids' sense of themselves. It also encourages a child to think about the people and things around them as things that exist to meet their needs and give them what they want. Kids without boundaries or discipline will get a rude awakening when they do not always get what they want.

As children of God, we are no different. To feel secure in our relationship with God, to live a life that is joyous and not anxious, we too need boundaries within which to live. The boundaries that God has provided to us allow us to know what it is to be Holy like him. This week we are considering how we see God in the book of Leviticus, and we see a loving, caring God that desires us to be Holy like him. Through the giving of the Law to his people, he has painted a picture of that righteousness that we can use to live our life to fulfill who we are as His children.

God gave us the law because of our transgressions (Gal 3:19) that move us away from the holiness of God. The law is also our guardian (Gal 3:24) in that it provides direction and protection. The law was given to provide protection to Israel, not through any merit that they may earn, but for them to know what God wanted in their life and to direct them away from sinning and abandoning God. The law itself does not save, rather the law was to prepare God's people for the coming of the Messiah (Christ) who would come and fulfill EVERY aspect of the law. In other words, Christ came and showed the holiness of God himself because he fulfilled and embodied the fullness

of the law. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Rom 10:4). We no longer need the law to see Holiness and an example of guidance and guardianship, now we have Christ and the Holy Spirit that lives within us.

We are to look different from the world around us as God's children. We need to keep God's law not to establish, or earn, or create our righteousness (we are not capable of such), but rather out of love for God and our Savior who personify the holiness of the law and the ability to fulfill the law. We need to keep God's law, his guidance, his direction, his boundaries as a witness to God's holiness so that others see us as one who loves and follows Christ. Children of God are **different** than the rest of the world, we talk differently, act differently, love differently, and live differently than those that do not know God. Seek to live your life within the boundaries that God has provided to you as his child so that your life is filled with the security and joy that comes from the grace that God pours out to us through Jesus.

--Derrick Savage