

Leviticus 21

Jesus

The LORD's Original Intent for the Entire Nation of Israel

Exodus 19:6 ...you shall be to Me a **kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** ...

Disqualified: Golden Calf Incident of Idolatry/Rebellion
God then calls a specific group to be Priests

- Tribe of Levi/Descendants of Aaron. [God's mercy after the Golden Calf]
- **Role of the Priests:**
 1. Represent God to the people
 2. Represent the People to God

God's leaders called to a higher standard in both OT/NT

1 Timothy 4:12b ...be an example to the believers **in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.**

I. Regulations for Conduct of Priests Personal Purity

1 And the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them: 'None shall **defile himself for the dead** among his people, 2 except for his relatives who are nearest to him: his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, and his brother; 3 also his virgin sister who is near to him, who has had no husband, for her **he may defile himself.**'

- To common not High priest

Sin leads to death
vv1-4 Do not become Defiled by the Dead

- **OT** Priest not permitted to touch what is dead
- **NT Whitewashed Tombs:** Painted white to stay away from

Compassion Provision included for Relatives
IOWs Priests *may touch* the dead body of a relative

Psalm 86:15 [Compassion an attribute of God] ...You, O Lord, *are* a God full of **compassion,** and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Jesus compassion: Raising the dead son of a widow

Luke 7:14 Then He came and **touched the open coffin,** and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, **I say to you, arise.**" 15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And **He presented him to his mother.**

Mark 5:41 Then **He took the child by the hand**, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "**Little girl, I say to you, arise.**" 42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

Phrase *Jesus was moved w/Compassion* 5X in NT
Compassion even from the Cross for His mother...

John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "**Woman, behold your son!**" 27 Then He said to the disciple, "**Behold your mother!**" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

- How could Jesus our High Priest touch the dead?
 1. Touch linked death and life
 2. Jesus was not of Aaron but Order of Melchizedek

God's Compassion even built into the Law
Other than a relative the Priest must not touch the dead...

4 Otherwise he shall not defile himself, being a **chief man among his people**, to profane himself.

People need more than a leader messing around w/dead stuff
Why would they seek the living among the dead?

5 They [Priests] shall not make any **bald place** on their heads, nor shall they **shave** the edges of their **beards** nor make any **cuttings in their flesh**.

Do not Imitate Pagan Mourning Practices c.f. Lev 19:27-28

1 Thessalonians 4:13 ...[Don't...] **sorrow as others who have no hope.**

- **Pagan Mourning Practices**

1. Shaving a bald spot
2. Shaving beard edges
3. Cutting the flesh

Cutting: How Pagans Mourned/Called up their Demon gods

- **1 Kings 18:20-40**

1. Ahab vs Eliah: You troubler of Israel/w/Drought
2. Elijah vs Ahab: You trouble Israel w/Idolatry

Gather your demonic forces at Mt Carmel
Showdown at High Noon

3. Ahabs 450 false prophets of Baal
4. Jezebels' 400 false prophets of Asherah

Versus Elijah and God: Elijah has the majority

- If God is God follow Him. If Baal follow him
- Set up an altar to Baal **and call down fire...**

1 Kings 18:27 And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened." 28 So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. 29 And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, **no one paid attention.** [God won]

Satan had his way w/the godless: Self-Harm/Self-Destruction/Self-Mutilation
Priests of the Living God were not to imitate that practice...

6 They shall be holy to their God and **not profane the name of their God**, for they offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God; therefore they shall be holy. 7 They [the Priests] shall **not take a wife who is a harlot** or a **defiled woman**, nor shall they take a **woman divorced from her husband**; for the **priest is holy to his God**. 8 Therefore you shall consecrate him, for he offers the bread of your God. **He shall be holy to you, for I the LORD, who sanctify you, am holy.**

Stricter Qualifications fo OT Priests regarding Marriage
Do not Profane/Dishonor the Name of God by who you Marry

- **Don't marry a prostitute** [Ritual]
- **Don't marry a defiled woman** [Non-virgin]
- **Don't marry a divorced woman because...**

For the Priest is Holy
Must be an example of Holiness among the people

9 The **daughter of any priest**, if she **profanes herself** by playing the harlot, she profanes **her father**. She shall be burned with fire.

Profane Children of the Priest in turn Profane their Father
Defile/Pollute/Desecrate

- Why burned with Fire?
 1. Rebelling against what God calls Holy
 2. Effect on the entire Nation [Congregation]

1 Timothy 3:4 ...one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence 5 (**for if a man does not know how to rule his own house**, how will he take care of the church of God?)

Higher Standards for Spiritual Leaders
v4 Chief men among the people

Titus 1:6 ...if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having **faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination**. 7 For a bishop must be **blameless**, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8 but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled 9 **holding fast the faithful word** as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

10 'He who is the **high priest** among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, **shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes**; 11 **nor shall he go near any dead body**, nor defile himself for his **father or his mother**; 12 nor shall he **go out of the sanctuary**, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: **I am the LORD**. 13 And he shall **take a wife in her virginity**. 14 A **widow** or a **divorced** woman or a **defiled woman** or a harlot—**these he shall not marry**; he shall **take a virgin of his own people** as wife. 15 Nor shall he **profane his posterity** among his people, for **I the LORD sanctify him.**' "

vv 10-15 High Priest's Greater Responsibilities

- Not touching the dead. **No exceptions** for High Priest as for common
- Not defiling himself even w/regard to his parent's dead bodies

Matthew 10:37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. 38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Marriage Standards for a High Priests re. Wives

- Not Defiled
- Not Divorced
- Not a Prostitute
- Not a Widow
- Not a Foreigner

Lest the priestly posterity be defiled
I the LORD sanctify him

16 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 17 "**Speak to Aaron**, saying: '**No man of your descendants** in succeeding generations, **who has any defect**, may approach to offer the bread of his God. 18 For any man who has a defect shall not approach: a man blind or lame, who has a marred face or any limb too long, 19 a man who has a broken foot or broken hand, 20 or is a hunchback or a dwarf, or a man who has a defect in his eye, or eczema or scab, or is a eunuch. 21 **No man** of the descendants of Aaron the priest, **who has a defect**, shall come near to offer the offerings made by fire to the LORD. He has a defect; he shall not come near to offer the bread of his God. 22 **He may**

eat the bread of his God, both the most holy and the holy; 23 only he shall not go near the veil or approach the altar, because he has a defect, lest he profane My sanctuaries; for I the LORD sanctify them.' " 24 And Moses told it to Aaron and his sons, and to all the children of Israel.

Priests who serve in the Holy Place must have no Physical Defects
Application: Symbolic of our perfect High Priest the LORD Jesus

Hebrews 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 7:26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is **holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners**, and has become higher than the heavens...

Unblemished Sacrifice/Unblemished Priest
Those with physical disabilities...

- Unable to go **near the veil**: First part of sanctuary. Therefore...
 1. Forbidden to Place Showbread [Fellowship]
 2. Forbidden to Light the Lamps
 3. Forbidden to Burn the Incense

Yet able to eat the showbread of **his God** both most holy and holy
Revealing the *obvious symbolic nature* of the command

He may eat the bread of his God: This indicates that those in priestly families could be supported by the priesthood. One with a physical defect could not serve as a priest, but they could eat the bread of **his God**, enjoying his relationship with Israel's covenant God. [Guzik]

It says of the one with the defect, "**his God.**" This means that Yahweh was still the God of that one, and did not exclude them from relationship, only from specific priestly service. [Application] "Our involuntary weaknesses shall not debar us from benefit by Christ." [Trapp]

PWD have no excuse to not serve God

Exodus 4:10 Then Moses said to the Lord, "O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."11 So the Lord said to him, "**Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore, go**, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

Leviticus 22

Jesus

I. Holiness of the Offerings What the Priest could Eat

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they **do not profane My holy name by what they dedicate to Me: I am the LORD.**

vv 1-3 Need for *Ceremonial Purity* for Priests
Sacrifices undefiled by Disease/Diet/Dead

- Do not profane the Holy things of Children of Israel
 1. Table of Showbread
 2. Golden Lampstand
 3. Altar of Incense

These belong to the LORD not the Priests
Separate Yourselves from Them

- **Separate:** heb. *nāzar* rt. of Nazarite
- **Lit.** Treat w/utmost Respect the things of God

I am the LORD

3 Say to them: "Whoever of all your descendants throughout your generations, who goes near the holy things which the children of Israel dedicate to the LORD, while he has uncleanness upon him, **that person shall be cut off from My presence: I am the LORD.**

No Ceremonially Unclean Priest could go near the Holy things
Consequence: Cut off from God's Presence. E.g. Nahab/Abihu

Holy Things: Foreshadowing of Jesus

- **Table of Showbread:** Bread of Life always in the Father/s presence
- **Golden Lampstand:** Light of the World bringing revelation of the Father
- **Altar of Incense:** Jesus our High Priest always interceding on our behalf

Colossians 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a [a]festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a **shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**

Hebrews 8:4 For if [Jesus] were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; 5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

I am the LORD
vv 4-8 Examples of what Defiles a Priest

4 "Whatever man of the **descendants of Aaron**, who is a **leper** or has a **discharge**, shall not eat the holy offerings until he is clean. And whoever

touches anything made **unclean by a corpse**, or a man who has had an **emission of semen**, 5 or whoever **touches any creeping thing** by which he would be made unclean, or any person by whom he would become unclean, whatever his uncleanness may be— 6 the person who has touched any such thing shall be unclean until evening, and shall not eat the holy offerings unless he washes his body with water. 7 And when the sun goes down he shall be clean; and afterward he may eat the holy offerings, because it is his food. 8 Whatever dies naturally or is torn by beasts he shall not eat, to defile himself with it: **I am the LORD.**

- **Examples of what Defiles a Priest**

1. Leprosy/Discharge
2. Touching death
3. Emission/Creeping things

- **Consequences**

1. Unclean till evening
2. Not to eat offering till washes

9 `They shall therefore keep My ordinance, **lest they** bear sin for it and die thereby, if they profane it: **I the LORD sanctify them.**

This more severe punishment for the willful ritual uncleanness of the priests was appropriate considering their greater knowledge of the things of God and their greater responsibility. [Guzik]

10 `No outsider shall eat the holy offering; one who dwells with the priest, or a hired servant, **shall not eat the holy thing**. 11 But if the priest buys a person with his money, he may eat it; and one who is born in his house may eat his food. 12 If the priest's daughter is married to an outsider, **she may not eat of the holy offerings**. 13 But if the priest's daughter is a widow or divorced, and has no child, and has **returned to her father's house** as in her youth, **she may eat her father's food**; but no outsider shall eat it.

vv 10-13 Only the Priestly Household can Eat

- No outsider
- No friend/No visitor of the Priest

You Cannot Partake
Awkward/Necessary Conversation

1 Corinthians 11:29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many are dead.

- No hired servant may eat [unless paid for by Priest]

- No daughter unequally yoked may eat
- A daughter who returns home under Priests roof may eat

v 10-13 Only the Priestly Household could Eat

14 'And if a man eats the holy offering **unintentionally**, then he shall restore a holy offering to the priest, and **add one-fifth to it**. 15 They shall not profane the holy offerings of the children of Israel, which they offer to the LORD, 16 or allow them to bear the guilt of trespass when they eat their holy offerings; for **I the LORD sanctify them.**' "

Unintentionally? Priest leave it our
Eater must restore the amount he ate plus 1/5th

I the LORD sanctify them

II. Offerings Accepted/Not Accepted

17 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 18 "**Speak to Aaron and his sons**, and to all the children of Israel, and say to them: 'Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers in Israel, who offers his sacrifice for any of his vows or for any of his **freewill offerings**, which they offer to the LORD as a burnt offering— 19 you shall offer of your own **free will** a male without blemish from the cattle, from the sheep, or from the goats. 20 Whatever has **a defect, you shall not offer**, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf. 21 And whoever offers a sacrifice of a **peace offering** to the LORD, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be **no defect in it**. 22 Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the LORD. 23 Either a bull or a lamb that has any limb too long or too short you may offer as a freewill offering, but for a vow it shall not be accepted.

vv 17-21 Principles for Offering: No Blemish or Defect

- God Desires/Deserve our best
- Anything less: Insulting at best/**even evil...**

Malachi 1:8 And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, **Is it not evil?** And when you offer the lame and sick, **Is it not evil?** Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the Lord of hosts ...**14** "But cursed be the deceiver Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished— For I am a great King," Says the Lord of hosts, "And My name is to be feared among the nations."

A farmer who came to his wife all excited, and as he sat down, he said, "Well, a cow calved this morning and they're twins. I'm just so excited I decided to give one of them to the Lord. So we'll raise them together, and when they get old enough or big enough to sell, then one of them is the Lord's, and whatever comes from it we'll just give to the Lord." So she said,

"Oh that's fine, honey. I think that's a wonderful idea." So she went out and looked at them, and she said, "Oh that's great, now which one's the Lord's?" He said, "Oh, it really doesn't make any difference." So a few months went on, and he came in one morning. He wasn't looking so good, she said, "What's wrong?" He said, "Oh, *the Lord's calf died.*"

David: I will not give the LORD a sacrifice that costs me nothing
Application: No Junk for Jesus

Law of acceptable Sacrifices was Abused/Exploited
Religious Leaders in the Temple ripped off the offerors...

Matthew 12:12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a **'den of thieves.'** " 14 **Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.**

The Sacrifice had to be perfect looking toward Jesus

- Only Perfection accepted in Heaven
 1. Jesus the perfect Sacrifice
 2. We His Bride made perfect by His righteousness

1 Peter 1:19 ...but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb **without blemish** and without spot.

Ephesians 5:27 ...that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be **holy and without blemish.**

24 'You shall not offer to the LORD what is bruised or crushed, or torn or cut; nor shall you make any offering of them in your land. 25 Nor from a foreigner's hand shall you offer any of these as the bread of your God, because their corruption is in them, and defects are in them. They **shall not be accepted** on your behalf.' "

vv 24-25 lit. Castration blemishes not accepted

26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 27 "When a bull or a sheep or a goat is born, it shall be seven days with its mother; and from the eighth day and thereafter it shall be accepted as an offering made by fire to the LORD. 28 Whether it is a cow or ewe, do not kill both her and her young on the same day. 29 And when you offer a **sacrifice of thanksgiving** to the LORD, offer it of your **own free will**. 30 On the same day it shall be eaten; you shall leave none of it until morning: **I am the LORD.**

- **Compassion in Sacrifice:** Unlike Pagans Rituals
 1. 7 Days w/mother before sacrificed
 2. Mother/Young not killed on same day

Freewill Sacrifice of Thanksgiving
To a Compassionate Loving Savior who Redeemed us by His blood

31 "Therefore you shall **keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the LORD.** 32 You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I am the LORD who sanctifies you, 33 who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: **I am the LORD.**"

Since He is the LORD we seek to please Him by keeping His Commands

1. Because of who He is... He is the LORD
2. Because of what He is... He is Holy
3. Because of what He is doing... He is the One who Sanctifies us
4. Because of what He has done... He is the One who brought us out from Egypt

Thus we will Hallow His Holy Name

Matthew 6:9therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, **Hallowed be Your Name.**

I am the LORD