

Leviticus: Living Life at the Second Fork

Leviticus 18-20, part 4

“Don’t Cancel Me”

August 3, 2025

1 Peter 2:9 Our manner of life should show the world how God’s character looks. We “proclaim His excellencies” by modeling His value system to a sin-darkened world. That is our purpose in life as ambassadors of the reconciliation.

Leviticus 19:18 “...you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.” See also Matt 22:36ff; James 2:8; Gal 5:14. To love God with all our being, and to love our neighbor, is to fulfill the Law.

What is love? **John 3:16**; Biblical *agape* love is a love that sacrificially gives, for the betterment of the recipient.

Who is my neighbor? **Luke 10:29ff**. Your neighbor is any other human being!

John 13:34 Jesus raised the bar on the greatest commandment in the Law; we are to love our neighbor not just as we love ourselves, but as Jesus loved us, and gave His life for us.

Since that is the case, then we should find examples in the context of **Leviticus 19** that show us that God has already loved us in the same manner in which He tells us to love others.

Leviticus 19:9 The needy and the stranger had no hope without someone making an effort to help them.

Romans 5:6 God came to us while we were “helpless,” even while we were “enemies,” strangers to Him, born onto His planet alienated from Him in our sinful state, and He provided reconciliation to us through “the death of His Son.”

Leviticus 19:14 Do not take advantage of someone’s weakness. We are not to use our strong personality to “bulldoze over” a weak person, our loud voice to drown out the quiet person, our sharp wit to embarrass the dull or intimidated.

Psalm 103:14 “For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust.” God condescends to us, not humiliating us in our weakness, frailty, and impotence.

Leviticus 19:17 Disagree, without hatred; correct, without malice.

Proverbs 3:11f God reproves us, while He is loving us.

Leviticus 19:18a Who are we to settle the score, to bear a grudge?

Psalm 103:10 “He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.”

Should we not treat each other as God has already treated us?

Philippians 2:3,4 “...do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

The Christian Ethic: To have a rational preoccupation with the welfare of those around us.

Leviticus 19:32 Offer your seat to an older person! Children: do not run in the halls. (Lest you knock an older person down, break their hip, and put them in a life or death situation, all because you felt like running.)

Leviticus 19:11,35,36 We reflect the character of God when we do not steal, when we respect the property of others; property is not merely material, it is also the person’s domain, his/her “space.” We can steal reputation by gossip; time by not being considerate; space by breaking in line; dignity by not allowing someone to have a different opinion about something.

Five levels of obedience to Jesus, in descending order of perfection:

1. I will love you the way that Christ loved me, and laid down His life for me.
2. I will love you the way that I love myself.
3. I will love myself, and I will be polite to you.
4. I will love myself, and I will ignore you.
5. I will love myself, and I might even hurt you.

From one psychologist and pollster, “According to our research, today, 1 in 2 adults is estranged from a close relative. While the primary cause of these rifts is often tied to something a relative said or did, 1 in 5 directly cite political differences as the reason.”

(<https://time.com/7201531/family-estrangement-us-politics-epidemic-essay/> accessed on Aug 2, 2025)

The believer has no role to play in the “cancel culture” motif so prevalent in society today.

Matthew 5:43 We reflect the glory of God when we do not cancel those with whom we have differences, either in opinion, politics, or theology.