

Be holy

Intro:

Heb 12:14

Read the Bible. Work out. Get married. Win tournament. Etc these are normal, noble even, resolutions but strive for holiness? That sounds like something for someone else, someone more extreme than us someone trying to be a monk or a super Christian.

Heb 12:10

Regardless it is God's goal whether we like it or not.

Problem:

1 pet 1:15-16

Lev 19 relevant to us today - but what does it look like tangibly to be holy in all our conduct?

Leviticus 19 is a great place to start

Main Idea:

Holiness looks like unity

Holiness looks like love

Holiness looks like separation

Holiness looks like fear

Holiness looks like imitation

Implication:

Strive, straining forward, press on - are these words that mark your Christian faith?

Do you want them to be?

My fear is that you will hear these words - you will know you are not striving, straining forward, pressing on towards the goal - and you will do nothing about it - worse even you will hear these words and not care - you like being casual - you have just enough Jesus in your life - if this is you listen to me carefully - you are in grave danger - you are worshipping an idol

There is a cost to following Jesus in the pursuit of this holiness - and it is not optional - your christianity may at times be carnal but it cannot be casual

Application:

Paul gave up his judaism but think about what he really gave up - his career path, his identity, his prestige his future - he didn't just give it up but counted it was rubbish in comparison to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus

Is it possible that we have studied the mechanics of salvation and neglected the benefits of it? Paul then tells us all to imitate him as if his pursuit is normative...what will you do with this?

Articles for further study:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/being-holy.html>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/imitate-me/>

<https://www.monergism.com/12-characteristics-persons-who-strive-after-holiness>

Text:

Holiness looks like unity

Be holy

Leviticus 19:1 ¶ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, **You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.**

jn 17:20-23 (holiness looks a lot like unity - be holy because I am - be like me)

eph 1:3-4 (holiness has always been the goal - holiness looks a lot like unity - be holy because I am)

eph 5:25-27 (not just any holiness - it is still the goal - be holy because I am - fellowship)

eph 4:1-24 (strive for holiness does not mean an intangible abstract impossible concept it means to strive for unity)

Holiness looks like love

Leviticus 19:3 Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves any gods of cast metal: **I am the LORD your God.**

Leviticus 19:5 ¶ "When you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted.

Leviticus 19:6 It shall be eaten the same day you offer it or on the day after, and anything left over until the third day shall be burned up with fire.

Leviticus 19:7 If it is eaten at all on the third day, it is tainted; it will not be accepted,

Leviticus 19:8 and everyone who eats it shall bear his iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from his people.

Leviticus 19:9 ¶ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest.

Leviticus 19:10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: **I am the LORD your God.**

Leviticus 19:11 ¶ "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another.

Leviticus 19:12 You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: **I am the LORD.**

Leviticus 19:13 ¶ "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.

Leviticus 19:14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: **I am the LORD.**

Leviticus 19:15 ¶ "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.

Leviticus 19:16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: **I am the LORD.**

Leviticus 19:17 ¶ "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.

Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: **I am the LORD.**

rom 13:8-10 (holiness looks like love)

(matt 22:34-40 (exodus 20 summed up here - love God by loving people - here added benefit of being put under heading of holiness))

heb 10:19-25 (what is done in the holy place? Consider how to stir up to love - striving for holiness = striving for love)

Holiness looks like separation

Leviticus 19:19 ¶ "You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind. You shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall you wear a garment of cloth made of two kinds of material.

Leviticus 19:20 ¶ "If a man lies sexually with a woman who is a slave, assigned to another man and not yet ransomed or given her freedom, a distinction shall be made. They shall not be put to death, because she was not free;

Leviticus 19:21 but he shall bring his compensation to the LORD, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, a ram for a guilt offering.

Leviticus 19:22 And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the LORD for his sin that he has committed, and he shall be forgiven for the sin that he has committed.

Leviticus 19:23 ¶ "When you come into the land and plant any kind of tree for food, then you shall regard its fruit as forbidden. Three years it shall be forbidden to you; it must not be eaten.

Leviticus 19:24 And in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, an offering of praise to the LORD.

Leviticus 19:25 But in the fifth year you may eat of its fruit, to increase its yield for you: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 19:26 ¶ "You shall not eat any flesh with the blood in it. You shall not interpret omens or tell fortunes.

Leviticus 19:27 You shall not round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard.

Leviticus 19:28 You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:29 ¶ "Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land fall into prostitution and the land become full of depravity.

Leviticus 19:30 You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

Leviticus 19:31 ¶ "Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.

2 cor 6:14-7:1 (holy ground to holy people - striving for holiness = striving for separation - not monastery)

jn 17:15-19 (sanctify/consecrate = make holy/set apart - striving for holiness = striving to be set apart by the Word)

Holiness looks like fear

Leviticus 19:32 ¶ "You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, **and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.**

Leviticus 19:33 ¶ "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong.

Leviticus 19:34 You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: **I am the LORD your God.**

Leviticus 19:35 ¶ "You shall do no wrong in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity.

Leviticus 19:36 You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin: **I am the LORD your God,** who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

1 pet 1:15-21 (holiness looks like fear of the Lord - no partiality)

Holiness looks like imitation

Leviticus 19:37 And you shall observe **all** my statutes and **all** my rules, and do them: **I am the LORD."**

Lev 19:2, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37 (this is who I Am - God was inviting them to imitate Him - holiness looks like imitation)

Jn 14:1-9 (we have something better than these laws to imitate...)

1 cor 11:1 (we still do - be terrified)

Phil 3:1-19 (application)