

Be Holy (Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18)

Originated, Generated and Composed by ***Ruach HaKodesh***

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Moses began Leviticus 19 by quoting the Lord God: *“Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”*

But, why does God say for us to, *“be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy”*? This is God’s way of pointing out to us, that He Himself is the Model for holiness. He is the Standard. He is the One that we are to imitate.

For most Christians though, “holiness” is a puzzling concept. We’re willing to be holy, but we don’t quite know what holiness is. Maybe we do not understand holiness, because the world in which we live does not give us sound examples... In the world, we witness stealing and lying, embezzlement and fraud. We witness instances where corporations will defraud their employees out of a fair wage for the bottom line. We witness a lack of concern and disrespect for the needy and the poor and the disabled. In the world, we witness injustice, hatred and revenge.

We know that God is holy, and we realize that we are to be holy. But **how** are we to be like Him? God’s Word gives us the blueprint. The commands that follow in Leviticus 19:9-18 are moral in character because they are an expression of God’s holy

character. If we want an insight into the nature of holiness, all we need to do is to meditate on these verses, and reflect on what they tell us. These moral commands tell us:

1. to make provision for the poor and the homeless ([19:9-10](#)),
2. to practice honesty toward all others ([19:11-12](#)),
3. to not take or keep anything that belongs to another ([19:13](#)),
4. to not take advantage of handicapped persons ([19:14](#)),
5. to be just in dealing with both the rich and the poor ([19:13](#), [19:15](#)),
6. to not use gossip or lies to get what we desire ([19:11-13](#)), and
7. to not do anything that would endanger someone's life ([19:13-16](#)).

As God's people we are to care for others and interact with them out of love – the redemptive love that has been given to us, we give to them ([19:17-18](#)). The last part of the verse 18 tells us to “*love your neighbor as yourself*”. Doesn't that sound familiar? It is part of the Great Commandments that we find in Matthew 22:37-39, where Jesus says:

Matthew 22:37-40 ~ ³⁷... "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love

your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Jesus took the love-for-God commandment from Deuteronomy 6:5 and combined it with the love-for-your-neighbor command of Leviticus 19:18. He summed up for us **how** to be holy.

What do we learn from these commandments in Leviticus 19? Perhaps the fact that holiness and love are partners, they go hand in hand... Our lives are to be built on love, maintained in love, motivated in love. Our lives are to reflect that we love God, and that we give Him first place and first priority in our lives. And, as an expression of this love for Him, our lives are to extend this love to others: caring for the poor; doing nothing that might harm another; loving others as we love ourselves...

This is our holiness code. As God's people this is the blueprint of **how** we are to be holy like God. Our horizontal relationships with others must reflect our vertical relationship with God. Our lives are to radiate the love of Christ Jesus continuously. This is the truest expression of holiness.

Love for God and Love for one another ... This is the kind of "holy" life that God calls us to live every day. It fulfills our strongest desire to *"Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy."*