

God's Law: Civil, Ceremonial, and Moral?

When it comes to the Laws of the Old Testament, and in particular those contained within Leviticus, many Christians over the centuries have wrestled with exactly how to apply them.

One common method of working out which laws still apply was to see the Law through the categories of civil, ceremonial, and moral. Civil laws dealt with day-to-day living and legal matters. Ceremonial laws dealt with things that were clean/unclean and all the priestly activities and sacrifices. The final category of laws were moral laws—laws with universal truths that could apply equally to all peoples across all times. So, it is argued that Jesus came to do away with the civil and ceremonial laws, but the moral law continues to this day.

But there's a few problems with this categorisation. First, while these categories are somewhat useful for our reading, the Laws do not define themselves in these categories. It is therefore a framework imposed on the text. Second, some laws seem to defy categorisation. For instance, in Lev 19:19 there are laws against mixed breeding and mixing garments/material. These laws would fit naturally under civil codes applicable only to Israel. Yet, the context of Lev 19 are laws to do with holiness—a moral issue. So is 19:19 a civil law, or a moral one? There is nothing in the chapter 19 which suggests that some differentiation between the laws is being made. If the context shows us that these are moral laws, then why is it still not applicable today? And there are other laws outside of Leviticus which also defy categorisation, and/or strangely fall within the context of moral holiness laws (eg Deut 14:21d) - which would also mean they should remain in effect to this day.

A better way of approaching the Law is to take them all as one united whole. We should then work out what underlying principles govern these laws. Using Lev 18-20 as an example it seems like these chapters are aimed at promoting the holy and distinctiveness of God's people. A people who have been specially saved and graciously brought to God. Now He has given these laws that they might reflect His holiness to the world (cf 18:1-5).

So, these peculiar laws aim at promoting the distinctiveness of God's holy people. This principle of God saving people and calling them to be distinctive in their behaviour is what carries on through to the New Testament to believers today. We also see large differences in how God intends for this to happen. No longer are God's people a nation tied to a land, Christians show their distinctiveness from the world in how they love and behave in ways contrary to the ways of our world.



10 November 2019 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

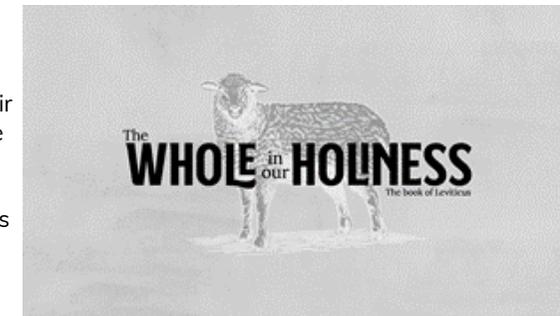
Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: The Whole in Our Holiness 5 — A Holy People Like Their Holy God

Israel are not to be like the other nations in their immorality and injustice, but are to be a people marked by holiness in the wholeness of their lives reflecting the holiness of their God, Yahweh. If they do not they will suffer penalties for disobedience.

Next Sunday: Leviticus 21-22



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing
Only a Holy God
Be Thou My Vision
You Made Us Your Own

Holy Communion

Offering

Community News

Bible Reading Leviticus 18:1-5, 20:22-26;
Ephesians 4:17-32

Sermon By Pastor Steven Tran

Song of Response Undivided

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$5,970.48
Weekly Required	\$5,750.00
Shortfall 2019	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GRACIOUS PROVISION of atonement which allows unholy and unclean people, stained by sin, to be able to have access, connection and relationship with Him, in all His holiness.

PRAISE GOD THAT THE PROGRESSIVE REVELATION of Leviticus lays the groundwork for us to understand the holiness of God, our unholiness, the great divide that separates us and what God provided to bridge that gap. Praise God that the Day of Atonement was given to Israel to be the one day where all their sins, transgressions and iniquities were temporarily atoned for, and how it so clearly points us to actual, complete and perfect atonement we have in Christ. Thank God that the blood of Jesus, shed once and for all, completely and perfectly cleans away our sins and casts them away as far as east is from the west.

PRAY FOR THE GOOD NEWS of salvation to grip us each day and increase our desire and willingness to share with others.

PRAY FOR THE STUDENTS as they continue with exams. Pray for them to have the right, biblical perspective on their studies, which shapes why and how they study.

PRAY FOR THE MANY WHO ARE feeling tired at work, in the home, and in many other ways as we approach the end of the year.

Community News

CHURCH WIDE PRAYER MEETING

It's not often that SLE Church has church wide prayer meetings and we are excited to announce that the next prayer meeting will be on **Saturday 16 November at North Hall**.

Please come along at 8am for a BYO breakfast with free coffee, and stay for the prayer meeting from 8:30am to 10am.

OMF PRAYER BREAKFAST

You are invited to the Heart4Asia Prayer Breakfast:

Stafford Heights Baptist Church

268 Appleby Road, Stafford Heights

Saturday 23 November

8am-10:30am

Serving

	Today	Next Sunday
Chair	Simeon	Randy
Prayer	Faith <i>Ivy</i>	Randy <i>Randy</i>
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Boon Cheng <i>Marilyn</i>	Matthew <i>Dan Lowe</i>
M.Tea	Eilen, Elleen	Corina, Alice
Wash Up	SaLT	SaLT
Welcome	Ken Steph Meng Yin <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Marilyn</i>	Ken Steph Meng Yin <i>Andrew</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Marilyn</i>
Stewards	Jeffrey John Richard <i>Stanley</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i>	Jeffrey John Richard <i>Stanley</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Aaron</i>
Piano	Joanna	Liesl
Guitar	Shaun	Shaopeng/ Mark
Bass		Aaron
Drums	Nigel	John
Vocal	Amanda	Alisha
PA	Reuten, Matt Z. <i>Stan</i>	Matt T. <i>Daniel</i>

A Holy People Like Their Holy God [Leviticus 18-20]

Introduction: the church needs to change... or it will die!

1. Don't be like the other nations or else...

a. Main point (18:1-5, 19:1-2, 20:22-26)

b. Sex lives (18:6-20, 20:10-21)

c. Pagan practices

i. Child sacrifice (18:21, 20:1-5)

ii. Mediums and Necromancers (19:31, 20:6, 27)

2. Be holy like Yahweh your God

a. Keep the commandments and obey (19:3-8, 11-12, 20:9-10)

b. Be generous and just (19:9-10, 13-16, 33-34)

c. Love (19:17-18)

d. Again, don't be like the other nations (19:19-31)

3. The failure of Israel to be Holy and distinct (Amos 2:6-8, 2 Kings 21:1-9)

4. The Holy One

So what?

A word to the non-Christian

A word to the Christian: be holy and distinct from the world