

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church
336 Oakwood Avenue
Orange, NJ

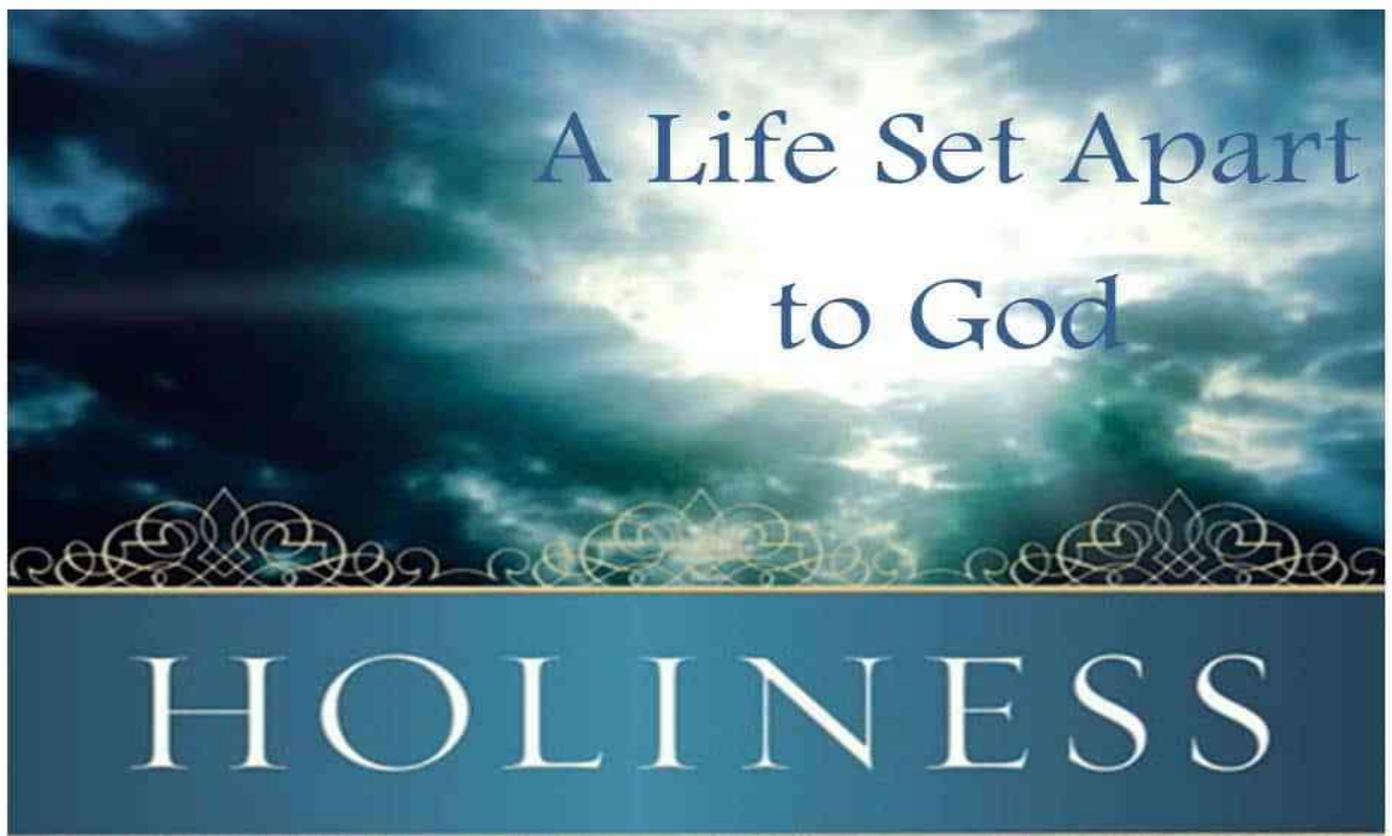
Rev. Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

Email: pastorwilson@stmatthewame.org

Cell: (914) 562-6331

“Pastor’s Bible Study”

What the Bible Says About The Holiness Code



Tuesday, February 26, 2019
6:30 pm

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLINESS CODE – LEVITICUS 17-26 (27)

A. The Book of Leviticus (“book of the Levites”)

1. Third book of Pentateuch
2. Author – Moses
3. Written to people of Israel in the desert during their 40 year sojourn from Egypt to Canaan
4. A book about “vertical and horizontal” relationships.
 - Vertical – with God.
 - Horizontal – with people.
 - How can we have a good relationship with God and we don’t have a good relationship with people?
5. Key Verse – 19:2 – “Be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”
6. Holiness is mentioned more times in Leviticus than in any other book (152), 431 times in the Old Testament

Leviticus 2:3 - The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons; it is a most **holy** part of the food offerings presented to the LORD.

Leviticus 2:10 - The rest of the grain offering belongs to Aaron and his sons; it is a most **holy** part of the food offerings presented to the LORD.

Leviticus 5:15 - “When anyone is unfaithful to the LORD by sinning unintentionally in regard to any of the LORD’s **holy** things, they are to bring to the LORD as a penalty a ram from the flock, one without defect and of the proper value in silver, according to the sanctuary shekel. It is a guilt offering.

Leviticus 5:16 - They must make restitution for what they have failed to do in regard to the **holy** things, pay an additional penalty of a fifth of its value and give it all to the priest. The priest will make atonement for them with the ram as a guilt offering, and they will be forgiven.

Leviticus 6:17 - It must not be baked with yeast; I have given it as their share of the food offerings presented to me. Like the sin offering and the guilt offering, it is most **holy**.

Leviticus 6:18 - Any male descendant of Aaron may eat it. For all generations to come it is his perpetual share of the food offerings presented to the LORD. Whatever touches them will become **holy**.”

Leviticus 6:25 - “Say to Aaron and his sons: “These are the regulations for the sin offering: The sin offering is to be slaughtered before the LORD in the place the burnt offering is slaughtered; it is most **holy**.

Leviticus 6:27 - Whatever touches any of the flesh will become **holy**, and if any of the blood is spattered on a garment, you must wash it in the sanctuary area.

Leviticus 6:29 - Any male in a priest’s family may eat it; it is most **holy**.

Leviticus 6:30 - But any sin offering whose blood is brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the **Holy Place** must not be eaten; it must be burned up.

Leviticus 7:1 - “These are the regulations for the guilt offering, which is most **holy**:

Leviticus 7:6 - Any male in a priest’s family may eat it, but it must be eaten in the sanctuary area; it is most **holy**.

Leviticus 10:3 - Moses then said to Aaron, “This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: “Among those who approach me I will be proved **holy**; in the sight of all the people I will be honored.” Aaron remained silent.

Leviticus 10:10 - so that you can distinguish between the **holy** and the common, between the unclean and the clean,

Leviticus 10:12 - Moses said to Aaron and his remaining sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, “Take the grain offering left over from the food offerings prepared without yeast and presented to the LORD and eat it beside the altar, for it is most **holy**.

Leviticus 10:17 - “Why didn’t you eat the sin offering in the sanctuary area? It is most **holy**; it was given to you to take away the guilt of the community by making atonement for them before the LORD.

Leviticus 10:18 - Since its blood was not taken into the **Holy** Place, you should have eaten the goat in the sanctuary area, as I commanded.”

Leviticus 11:44 - I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be **holy**, because I am **holy**. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground.

Leviticus 11:45 - I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be **holy**, because I am **holy**.

Leviticus 14:13 - He is to slaughter the lamb in the sanctuary area where the sin offering and the burnt offering are slaughtered. Like the sin offering, the guilt offering belongs to the priest; it is most **holy**.

Leviticus 16:2 - The LORD said to Moses: “Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most **Holy** Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

Leviticus 16:3 - “This is how Aaron is to enter the Most **Holy** Place: He must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

Leviticus 16:16 - In this way he will make atonement for the Most **Holy** Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the tent of meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Leviticus 16:17 - No one is to be in the tent of meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most **Holy** Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.

Leviticus 16:20 - “When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most **Holy** Place, the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat.

Leviticus 16:23 - “Then Aaron is to go into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most **Holy** Place, and he is to leave them there.

Leviticus 16:27 - The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most **Holy** Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and intestines are to be burned up.

Leviticus 16:33 - and make atonement for the Most **Holy** Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community.

Leviticus 19:2 - “Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be **holy** because I, the LORD your God, am **holy**.’

Leviticus 19:8 - Whoever eats it will be held responsible because they have desecrated what is **holy** to the LORD; they must be cut off from their people.

Leviticus 19:24 - In the fourth year all its fruit will be **holy**, an offering of praise to the LORD.

Leviticus 20:3 - I myself will set my face against him and will cut him off from his people; for by sacrificing his children to Molek, he has defiled my sanctuary and profaned my **holy** name.

Leviticus 20:7 - “Consecrate yourselves and be **holy**, because I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:8 - Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the LORD, who makes you **holy**.

Leviticus 20:26 - You are to be **holy** to me because I, the LORD, am **holy**, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.

Leviticus 21:6 - They must be **holy** to their God and must not profane the name of their God. Because they present the food offerings to the LORD, the food of their God, they are to be **holy**.

Leviticus 21:7 - “They must not marry women defiled by prostitution or divorced from their husbands, because priests are **holy** to their God.

Leviticus 21:8 - Regard them as **holy**, because they offer up the food of your God. Consider them **holy**, because I the LORD am **holy**—I who make you **holy**.

Leviticus 21:15 -so that he will not defile his offspring among his people. I am the LORD, who makes him **holy**.”

Leviticus 21:22 - He may eat the most **holy** food of his God, as well as the **holy** food;

Leviticus 21:23 - yet because of his defect, he must not go near the curtain or approach the altar, and so desecrate my sanctuary. I am the LORD, who makes them **holy**.”

Leviticus 22:2 - “Tell Aaron and his sons to treat with respect the sacred offerings the Israelites consecrate to me, so they will not profane my **holy** name. I am the LORD.

Leviticus 22:9 - “The priests are to perform my service in such a way that they do not become guilty and die for treating it with contempt. I am the LORD, who makes them **holy**.

Leviticus 22:16 -by allowing them to eat the sacred offerings and so bring upon them guilt requiring payment. I am the LORD, who makes them **holy**.”

Leviticus 22:32 - Do not profane my **holy** name, for I must be acknowledged as **holy** by the Israelites. I am the LORD, who made you **holy**

Leviticus 24:9 - It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in the sanctuary area, because it is a most **holy** part of their perpetual share of the food offerings presented to the LORD.”

Leviticus 25:12 - For it is a jubilee and is to be **holy** for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

Leviticus 27:9 - “If what they vowed is an animal that is acceptable as an offering to the LORD, such an animal given to the LORD becomes **holy**.

Leviticus 27:10 - They must not exchange it or substitute a good one for a bad one, or a bad one for a good one; if they should substitute one animal for another, both it and the substitute become **holy**.

Leviticus 27:14 - “If anyone dedicates their house as something **holy** to the LORD, the priest will judge its quality as good or bad. Whatever value the priest then sets, so it will remain.

Leviticus 27:21 - When the field is released in the Jubilee, it will become **holy**, like a field devoted to the LORD; it will become priestly property.

Leviticus 27:23 - the priest will determine its value up to the Year of Jubilee, and the owner must pay its value on that day as something **holy** to the LORD.

Leviticus 27:28 - “But nothing that a person owns and devotes to the LORD—whether a human being or an animal or family land—may be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most **holy** to the LORD.

Leviticus 27:30 - “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is **holy** to the LORD.

Leviticus 27:32 - Every tithe of the herd and flock—every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd’s rod—will be **holy** to the LORD.

Leviticus 27:33 - No one may pick out the good from the bad or make any substitution. If anyone does make a substitution, both the animal and its substitute become **holy** and cannot be redeemed.”

II. WHAT DOES “HOLY” MEAN?

- A. From the Hebrew word, “qodesh” which means “apartness, sacredness or separateness”
- B. “Set apart, pure, blameless, revered”

III. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

- A. Leviticus 1-16, 27 – **The Priestly Code**
 1. Details of worship, rituals, ritual cleanliness and uncleanness
 2. Subjects that deserve Honorable mention – The various Offerings, The Day of Atonement (ch. 16)
- B. Leviticus 17-26 – **The Holiness Code**
 1. Emphasis on holiness and the holy for the entire people of God
 - **Leviticus 17** - Laws concerning idolatry, the slaughter of animals, dead animals, and the consumption of blood
 - **Leviticus 18** - Laws concerning sexual conduct - incest, bestiality, and, apparently, [homosexuality](#) among men, laws concerning [sorcery](#), and [moloch](#) (Also Leviticus 20, in which penalties are given)
 - **Leviticus 19** - Laws concerning molten gods, *peace-offerings*, scraps of the [harvest](#), [fraud](#), the [deaf](#), [blind](#), [elderly](#), and [poor](#), [poisoning the well](#), hate, [sex](#) with slaves, [self harm](#), [shaving](#), [prostitution](#), [sabbaths](#), [sorcery](#), [familials](#), strangers, and just weights and measure
 - **Leviticus 21-22** - Laws concerning priestly conduct, and prohibitions against the disabled, ill, and superfluously blemished, from becoming priests, or becoming sacrifices, for descendants of Aaron, and animals, respectively
 - **Leviticus 23** - Laws concerning the observation of the annual feasts, and the sabbath
 - **Leviticus 24:1-9** - Laws concerning the altar of incense
 - **Leviticus 24:10-23** - The case law lesson of a blasphemer being stoned to death, and other applications of the death penalty, including anyone having "a familiar ghost or spirit", a child insulting its parents (Leviticus 20), and a special case for prostitution (burning them alive) (Leviticus 21)
 - **Leviticus 25** - Laws concerning the Sabbath, [Jubilee years](#) and [slavery](#).
 - **Leviticus 26:22** - Promises regarding obedience to these commandments, and warnings and threats for those that might disobey them, including sending wild animals to devour their children.

IV. ISSUES ADDRESSED IN LEVITICUS 17

- A. Sacrifice at the Tabernacle
- B. Eating and drinking blood
- C. Eating anything dead or torn by wild animals

LEVITICUS 17

NIV, New International Version

¹ The LORD said to Moses, ² "Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: 'This is what the LORD has commanded: ³ Any Israelite who sacrifices an ox, ^[a] a lamb or a goat in the camp or outside of it ⁴ instead of bringing it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to present it as an offering to the LORD in front of the tabernacle of the LORD -that man shall be considered guilty of bloodshed; he has shed blood and must be cut off from his people. ⁵ This is so the Israelites will bring to the LORD the sacrifices they are now making in the open fields. They must bring them to the priest, that is, to the LORD, at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and sacrifice them as fellowship offerings. ^[b] ⁶ The priest is to sprinkle the blood against the altar of the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and burn the fat as an aroma pleasing to the LORD. ⁷ They must no longer offer any of their sacrifices to the goat idols ^[c] to whom they prostitute themselves. This is to be a lasting ordinance for them and for the generations to come.' ⁸ "Say to them: 'Any Israelite or any alien living among them who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice ⁹ and does not bring it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to sacrifice it to the LORD -that man must be cut off from his people. ¹⁰ " 'Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. ¹¹ For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. ¹² Therefore I say to the Israelites, "None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood." ¹³ " 'Any Israelite or any alien living among you who hunts any animal or bird that may be eaten must drain out the blood and cover it with earth, ¹⁴ because the life of every creature is its blood. That is why I have said to the Israelites, "You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off." ¹⁵ " 'Anyone, whether native-born or alien, who eats anything found dead or torn by wild animals must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be ceremonially unclean till evening; then he will be clean. ¹⁶ But if he does not wash his clothes and bathe himself, he will be held responsible.' "

CJB, Complete Jewish Bible

ADONAI said to Moshe, ² "Speak to Aharon and his sons and to all the people of Isra'el. Tell them that this is what *ADONAI* has ordered: ³ 'When someone from the community of Isra'el slaughters an ox, lamb or goat inside or outside the camp ⁴ without bringing it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to present it as an offering to *ADONAI* before the tabernacle of *ADONAI*, he is to be charged with blood—he has shed blood, and that person is to be cut off from his people. ⁵ The reason for this is so that the people of Isra'el will bring their sacrifices that they sacrifice out in the field— so that they will bring them to *ADONAI*, to the entrance of the tent of meeting, to the *cohen*, and sacrifice them as peace offerings to *ADONAI*. ⁶ The *cohen* will splash the blood against the altar of *ADONAI* at the entrance to the tent of meeting and make the fat go up in smoke as a pleasing aroma for *ADONAI*. ⁷ No longer will they offer sacrifices to the goat-demons, before whom they prostitute themselves! This is a permanent regulation for them through all their generations.' ⁸ {*RY: iii, LY: v*} "Also tell them, 'When

someone from the community of Isra'el or one of the foreigners living with you offers a burnt offering or sacrifice 9 without bringing it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to sacrifice it to ADONAI, that person is to be cut off from his people. 10 ¶ When someone from the community of Isra'el or one of the foreigners living with you eats any kind of blood, I will set myself against that person who eats blood and cut him off from his people. 11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for yourselves; for it is the blood that makes atonement because of the life.' 12 This is why I told the people of Isra'el, 'None of you is to eat blood, nor is any foreigner living with you to eat blood.' 13 "When someone from the community of Isra'el or one of the foreigners living with you hunts and catches game, whether animal or bird that may be eaten, he is to pour out its blood and cover it with earth. 14 For the life of every creature—its blood is its life. Therefore I said to the people of Isra'el, 'You are not to eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood. Whoever eats it will be cut off.' 15 "Anyone eating an animal that dies naturally or is torn to death by wild animals, whether he is a citizen or a foreigner, is to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water; he will be unclean until evening; then he will be clean. 16 But if he doesn't wash them or bathe his body, he will bear the consequences of his wrongdoing."

MSG, The Message

¹⁻⁷ GOD spoke to Moses: "Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the Israelites. Tell them, This is what GOD commands: Any and every man who slaughters an ox or lamb or goat inside or outside the camp instead of bringing it to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting to offer it to GOD in front of The Dwelling of GOD—that man is considered guilty of bloodshed; he has shed blood and must be cut off from his people. This is so the Israelites will bring to GOD the sacrifices that they're in the habit of sacrificing out in the open fields. They must bring them to GOD and the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and sacrifice them as Peace- Offerings to GOD. The priest will splash the blood on the Altar of GOD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and burn the fat as a pleasing fragrance to GOD. They must no longer offer their sacrifices to goat-demons— a kind of religious orgy. This is a perpetual decree down through the generations.⁸⁻⁹ "Tell them, Any Israelite or foreigner living among them who offers a Whole-Burnt-Offering or Peace-Offering but doesn't bring it to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting to sacrifice it to GOD, that person must be cut off from his people. ¹⁰⁻¹² "If any Israelite or foreigner living among them eats blood, I will disown that person and cut him off from his people, for the life of an animal is in the blood. I have provided the blood for you to make atonement for your lives on the Altar; it is the blood, the life, that makes atonement. That's why I tell the People of Israel, 'Don't eat blood.' The same goes for the foreigner who lives among you, 'Don't eat blood.'¹³⁻¹⁴ "Any and every Israelite—this also goes for the foreigners—who hunts down an animal or bird that is edible, must bleed it and cover the blood with dirt, because the life of every animal is its blood—the blood is its life. That's why I tell the Israelites, 'Don't eat the blood of any animal because the life of every animal is its blood. Anyone who eats the blood must be cut off.'¹⁵⁻¹⁶ "Anyone, whether native or foreigner, who eats from an animal that is found dead or mauled must wash his clothes and bathe in water; he remains unclean until evening and is then clean. If he doesn't wash or bathe his body, he'll be held responsible for his actions."

**Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line tomorrow morning at 6:30 am
(515) 604-9855, Access Code 886823#**