

Real Holiness

Shalom

Our Torah portion for this week is found in **Leviticus 19:1–20:27**, and is called in the Hebrew text by the name, “*K’doshim*,” or “**Holy People.**” As a believer in Christ, I have always wanted to be holy, and I have always wanted to please the Father, but I have to confess that I have not always known what being holy would look like. If we were to follow religious teachings, it might look miserable and unhappy, but if we believe the Bible, and receive the revelation of the Holy Spirit, nothing could be further from the truth, for we read that YHWH wants His people to be holy as He is holy. Since God instructed us to be holy in the same manner that He is Holy, it must be, not only a possibility, but truly within our reach if we choose to believe and act according to His Word. The King of the Universe, the Almighty God, and Savior of the World is never miserable and downtrodden. He reigns in majesty and glory and is the author of everything good. He only gives good gifts to those who love Him.

*ADONAI said to Moshe, “Speak to the entire community of Isra’el; tell them, ‘You people are to be holy because I, ADONAI your God, am holy.’” (Leviticus 19:1-2 CJB)*

What a wonderful God! He is good! His love is everlasting, and everything He does is for our benefit. Everything He commands us to be, or do, is to make us **Shalom**, or complete.

*“Observe My regulations.” (Leviticus 19:19 CJB)*

As we read and meditate the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> chapters of Leviticus, we see numerous **instructions** that are given by God to **show His mind and His way of doing things**. They have to do with observance of Shabbat, honoring parents, staying far from idolatry, acceptable worship, loving others, maintaining Godly purity of life and a multitude of instructions dealing with nearly every area of life, and we find that **this is what He says is ‘holy,’** and He reminds us they are not optional if we are to know life in its fullness. He tells us that our way of doing things needs to come up to His standard, and, regardless of teachings, traditions, and social standard that contradict His way of doing things, He has established that His people are not to walk according to the dictates of society where everyone does what is right in his own eyes. Yeshua, of course, relates the truth of **the instructions of God** in Matthew, chapters 5–7, and shows that **they are God’s way of doing things, or the Kingdom of Heaven.** All of God’s precepts, judgments, ordinances, statutes, and laws, are to become our new way of thinking that agrees with His ways, which are higher than our (natural) ways.

*As high as the sky is above the earth are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:9 CJB)*

*Rather, you people are to be holy for Me; because I, ADONAI, am holy; and I have set you apart from the other peoples, so that you can belong to Me. (Leviticus 20:26 CJB)*

Holiness means to be separated: **separated from that which is evil and separated unto God.** Another word which indicates holiness is “**sanctification,**” and is a **process** by which God separates us unto Himself by His Word and shows us to choose to separate ourselves unto Him by taking heed according to His Word. **To be holy, as God is holy, can only be real in our lives by being in relationship with Him, doing and acting according to the direction of His Holy Spirit, following His instructions with moment-by-moment attentiveness instead of just obeying all the rules.** This seems impossible to the natural mind, but YHWH has **equipped us as New Creations** with His very own presence in our spirits and promised that what He requires may become a complete reality in us.

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit inside you; I will take the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **I will put My Spirit inside you and cause you to live by My laws, respect My rulings and obey them.** (Ezekiel 36:26-27 CJB)*

We have been redeemed from **the curse of the law**, which is a **consciousness of our sinfulness**, never knowing what we need to do to please God. **The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death. We are no longer under condemnation to sin.** The blood of Jesus the Messiah has cleansed us from all sin. We have been made righteous through the precious blood of Jesus by trusting, freed from a defiled conscience. We are a completely new creation in Him knowing, by His Spirit inside us, the directions He is giving; **not merely the actions of doing, but His mind to renew our thinking and attitudes into harmony with Him.**

*Now we have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit of God, so **that we might understand the things God has so freely given us.** (1 Corinthians 2:12 CJB)*

*For who has known the mind of ADONAI? Who will counsel Him? But **we have the mind of the Messiah!** (1 Corinthians 2:16 CJB)*

*“For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Isra'el after those days,” says ADONAI: **“I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God, and they will be My people.”** (Jeremiah 31:32 CJB)*

Once we receive the new birth by confessing that Jesus is LORD and believing in our hearts that He is risen from the dead, we are new creations through trusting, not in our own righteousness, but in the righteousness of Him; we are equipped by the Spirit of God to walk according to His Word in holiness. It is important to recognize that any attempt to walk in holiness apart from the transformation wrought in us by the Holy Spirit is just dead religion and fleshly performance springing from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Jesus said that whatever is born from the flesh is flesh (John 3:6), and that also refers to our own works and attempts to be holy, but He also said, “What is born from the Spirit is spirit,” and by the Spirit of God we are made fruitful in true holiness

*But now, having been set free from sin and having become enslaved to God, you have your fruit resulting in holiness. And the outcome is eternal life. (Romans 6:22 TLV)*

*With respect to your former lifestyle, **you are to lay aside the old self** corrupted by its deceitful desires, be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self—created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22-24 TLV)*

*He **restores my soul**. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His Name's sake. (Psalms 23:3 TLV)*

*Do not be conformed to this world but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God**—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2 TLV)*

With a **restored soul**, or a **renewed mind**, we, who have been made righteous by God simply by believing, are now **empowered by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to walk in the paths of righteousness, which is the holiness**. Not by our own works, but by trusting in what Yeshua did for us, we are led to a life of **separation from the power of sin**, unto a life of **separation unto life in the Messiah**. Remember, no keeping of the law can make a person righteous, but **trusting that the Lord's sacrifice for sin opens the Torah (law) of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus will make us free from the law of sin and death**.

*For **the law of the Spirit of life in Messiah Yeshua has set you free** from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2 TLV)*

*For we are His workmanship—created in Messiah Yeshua for good deeds, **which God prepared beforehand so we might walk in them**. (Ephesians 2:10 TLV)*

Praise God for restoring us and making us able to live a Spirit-filled life in Messiah, and for giving us His anointing to do whatever He has prepared for us: walking in Him, speaking His words, and accomplishing His works, doing all that we do as the Spirit of God moves us. That is being holy as He is holy. That is Real Holiness.

Separated in Him,  
Terry

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