

Leviticus 21 - Personal Purity; The Holiness of Priests

II. Sanctification as a means of walking with God (Lev 18:1—27:34)

(2) Instructions for priests (Lev 21:1—22:33)

(A) Personal sanctification (21:1-15)

(a) Of the priests (21:1-9)

(i) Concerning contact with the dead (21:1-4)

(ii) Concerning bodily disfigurement (21:5)

(iii) Concerning his marriage (21:6-8)

(iv) Concerning his daughter (21:9)

(b) Of the high priest (21:10-15)

(i) Concerning his clothing (21:10)

(ii) Concerning contact with dead bodies (21:11)

(iii) Concerning his relationship to the sanctuary (21:12)

(iv) Concerning his marriage (21:13-15)

(B) Physical requirements (21:16-24)

Leviticus 21

(2) Instructions for priests (Lev 21:1—22:33)

(A) Personal sanctification (21:1-15)

(a) Of the priests (21:1-9)

(i) Concerning contact with the dead (21:1-4)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them:

'No one shall defile himself for a *dead* person among his people,

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the priests, the sons of Aaron, and say to them:

'No one shall defile himself for a *dead* person among his people,

1 The LORD told Moses, "Speak to the priests, Aaron's sons, and tell them that no priest is to defile himself on account of the dead among his people,

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto the priests the sons of Aaron, and say unto them, There shall none be defiled for the dead among his people:

2 except for his relatives who are nearest to him, his mother, his father, his son, his daughter, and his brother,

2 except for his relatives who are nearest to him, his mother and his father and his son and his daughter and his brother,

2 except his close relatives—his mother, father, son, daughter, brother, or

2 But for his kin, that is near unto him, that is, for his mother, and for his father, and for his son, and for his daughter, and for his brother,

3 also for his virgin sister who is near to him because she has not had a husband; for her, he may defile himself.

3 also for his virgin sister, who is near to him because she has had no husband; for her he may defile himself.

3 virgin sister (who is a near relative of him and did not have a husband— he may defile himself for her).

3 And for his sister a virgin, that is nigh unto him, which hath had no husband; for her may he be defiled.

4 He shall not defile himself as a relative by marriage among his people, so as to profane himself.

4 He shall not defile himself as a relative by marriage among his people, and so profane himself.

4 Because he is a husband among his people, he is not to defile himself, thereby polluting himself.

4 But he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself.

(ii) Concerning bodily disfigurement (21:5)

5 They shall not shave any area on their heads bald, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts in their flesh.

5 They shall not make any baldness on their heads, nor shave off the edges of their beards, nor make any cuts in their flesh.

5 "They are not to cut their hair in ritualistic patterns on their heads, deface the edges of their beards, or make incisions in their flesh.

5 They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they shave off the corner of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh.

(iii) Concerning his marriage (21:6-8)

6 They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, because they present the offerings by fire to the LORD, the food of their God; so they shall be holy.

6 They shall be holy to their God and not profane the name of their God, for they present the offerings by fire to the LORD, the food of their God; so they shall be holy.

6 They are to be holy to their God. They are not to defile the name of their God, because they're the ones who bring the offerings of the LORD made by fire—the food of their God—so they are to be holy.

6 They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

7 They shall not take a woman who is a prostitute and profaned, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for he is holy to his God.

7 They shall not take a woman who is profaned by harlotry, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband; for he is holy to his God.

7 "They are not to marry a prostitute or a woman who has been dishonored or who was divorced from her husband, because the priest⁴ is holy to his God.

7 They shall not take a wife that is a whore, or profane; neither shall they take a woman put away from her husband: for he is holy unto his God.

8 You shall consecrate him, therefore, because he offers the food of your God. He shall be holy to you; for I the LORD, who sanctifies you, am holy.

8 You shall consecrate him, therefore, for he offers the food of your God; he shall be holy to you; for I the LORD, who sanctifies you, am holy.

8 Consecrate him, because he's the one who offers the food of your God. He is to be holy for you, because I, the LORD, the one who sanctifies you, am holy.

8 Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, am holy.

(iv) Concerning his daughter (21:9)

9 Also the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by prostitution, she profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.

9 Also the daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by harlotry, she profanes her father; she shall be burned with fire.

9 "Now if the daughter of any priest defiles herself by being a prostitute, she defiles her father. She is to be incinerated.

9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.

(b) Of the high priest (21:10-15)

(i) Concerning his clothing (21:10)

10 'The priest who is highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes;

10 'The priest who is the highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes;

10 "The high priest among his relatives—whose head has been anointed with oil and who has been consecrated to put on the priestly clothing—is not to let his hair hang loose or to tear his clothes.

10 And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;

(ii) Concerning contact with dead bodies (21:11)

11 nor shall he approach any dead person, nor defile himself *even* for his father or his mother;

11 nor shall he approach any dead person, nor defile himself *even* for his father or his mother;

11 He is not to come near any dead body—whether the deceased is his father or his mother—so as not to defile himself.

11 Neither shall he go in to any dead body, nor defile himself for his father, or for his mother;

(iii) Concerning his relationship to the sanctuary (21:12)

12 nor shall he leave the sanctuary nor profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am the LORD.

12 nor shall he go out of the sanctuary nor profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am the LORD.

12 He is not to go out of the sanctuary or defile the sanctuary of his God, because his God's consecrating oil of anointing rests on him. I am the LORD.

12 Neither shall he go out of the sanctuary, nor profane the sanctuary of his God; for the crown of the anointing oil of his God is upon him: I am the LORD.

(iv) Concerning his marriage (21:13-15)

13 He shall take a wife in her virginity.

13 He shall take a wife in her virginity.

13 "Furthermore, he is to marry a true virgin.

13 And he shall take a wife in her virginity.

14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by prostitution, these he shall not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people,

14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by harlotry, these he may not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people,

14 He is not to marry a widow or one who has been divorced, has been defiled, or has been a prostitute. Instead, he is to take a virgin from among his people as his wife.

14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, or an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.

15 so that he will not profane his children among his people; for I am the LORD who sanctifies him."

15 so that he will not profane his offspring among his people; for I am the LORD who sanctifies him."

15 "He is not to defile his children among his people, because I am the LORD, who sets him apart."

15 Neither shall he profane his seed among his people: for I the LORD do sanctify him.

(B) Physical requirements (21:16-24)

16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

16 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

16 The LORD told Moses,

16 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

17 "Speak to Aaron, saying, 'None of your descendants throughout their generations who has an impairment shall approach to offer the food of his God.

17 "Speak to Aaron, saying, 'No man of your offspring throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to offer the food of his God.

17 Tell Aaron that whoever of your descendants throughout their generations has a bodily defect is not to approach to offer the food of his God.

17 Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God.

18 For no one who has an impairment shall approach: a man who is blind, or one who limps, or one who has a slit nose, or one with *any* conspicuous feature,

18 For no one who has a defect shall approach: a blind man, or a lame man, or he who has a disfigured *face*, or any deformed *limb*,

18 Indeed, any person who has a defect is not to approach the Tent of Meeting—the blind, the lame, one who is mutilated in the face or who has a very long limb,

18 For whatsoever man he be that hath a blemish, he shall not approach: a blind man,
or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous,
19 or someone who has a broken foot or broken hand,
19 or a man who has a broken foot or broken hand,
19 or a person who has a fractured foot or hand,
19 Or a man that is brokenfooted, or brokenhanded,
20 or a contorted back, or *one who is* a dwarf, or *has* a spot in his eye, or a festering
rash or scabs, or crushed testicles.
20 or a hunchback or a dwarf, or *one who has* a defect in his eye or eczema or scabs
or crushed testicles.
20 has scoliosis, is a dwarf, or has an eye defect, an itching disease, scabs, or a
crushed testicle.
20 Or crookbackt, or a dwarf, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy,
or scabbed, or hath his stones broken;
21 No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has an impairment is to
come forward to offer the LORD'S offerings by fire; *since* he has an impairment, he
shall not come forward to offer the food of his God.
21 No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to come
near to offer the LORD's offerings by fire; *since* he has a defect, he shall not come
near to offer the food of his God.
21 None of the descendants of Aaron the priest who has a defect is to approach to
bring offerings of the LORD made by fire, since he has a defect. He is not to approach
to offer the food of his God.
21 No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer
the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to
offer the bread of his God.
22 He may eat the food of his God, *both* of the most holy and of the holy,
22 He may eat the food of his God, *both* of the most holy and of the holy,
22 However, he may eat the food of his God, including the most holy and the holy
offerings,
22 He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.
23 only he shall not come up to the veil or approach the altar, since he has an
impairment, so that he does not profane My sanctuaries. For I am the LORD who
sanctifies them."

23 only he shall not go in to the veil or come near the altar because he has a defect,
so that he will not profane My sanctuaries. For I am the LORD who sanctifies them."

23 but he is not to enter through the curtain nor approach the altar, since he has a defect. That way, he won't defile my sanctuary, since I am the LORD, who sets you apart."

23 Only he shall not go in unto the veil, nor come nigh unto the altar, because he hath a blemish; that he profane not my sanctuaries: for I the LORD do sanctify them.

24 So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel.

24 So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel.

24 Moses told all of this to Aaron, to his sons, and to all the Israelis.

24 And Moses told it unto Aaron, and to his sons, and unto all the children of Israel.