

--vss 15-16, slaughter methods (in brief)...if anything dies after the pattern given in these verses one cannot be sure of the character of the death...so it is unclean.

And in all of these things, what is being defiled is the worship of God in the incorrect practice, sacrificing to devils, or taking the part that is to be used for the atoning work.

c. Inter-personal relationships...Leviticus 18

18:1-5...the general principle. In all of your dealings with others you will not follow the practices of Egypt or Canaan but will establish the society on the basis of the decrees of God. This quickly moves into particular issues of morality for it is in this area that the depravity of man is more quickly seen than in perhaps any other

18:6-17...any form of familiar incest is to be forsaken among the people of God. The categories are very specific and call for a sphere of moral purity that begins with the family and widens to others. Sexual sins are, in some ways, the most depraved of all...since they are so blatantly defiant of the creative order and love of God.

18:18-25...sexual conduct of other deviate forms is forbidden: polygamy may be the subject of vs. 18, adultery is surely the subject of vs. 20 while vs. 19 protects the feminine person during the Period cycle; 21 forbids the fertility rites of the Phoenician gods, et al, and 22 proscribes homosexuality in a very specific way; bestiality is condemned in vs. 23 and the summary note is that the heathen have defiled the land with these things and God will not overlook them if they fall into this plot.

You will remember that the positive teachings of the law are given earlier in the Pentateuch and in this case the writer assumes the positive understanding and adds the important prohibitive part.

Virtually every masculine/feminine relationship is touched upon. With each negation we are reminded of how quickly man changes the pattern of God's creative purposes to his own ends. Purity in this area is so notable that it is almost an authenticating stamp of some sort of acquaintance with the Divine mind. In reading the chapter one is reminded of how persons defraud one another and the God-given intentions in life. Holiness calls for sharp circumvention of these immoral practices and ideals.

d. The establishment of a "testimony" Leviticus 19.

This, in some ways, is one of the most important chapters in the law. From here we get the quotation used in 1 Peter 1 to argue for New Testament holiness. From here we get the foundational idea that everything in life is to be done in the name of the Lord.