

Holiness in a World Full of Idols

Differences that Make a Difference



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 19:4

Do not turn to idols or make gods of cast metal for yourselves. I am the Lord your God.

Note the refrain in Leviticus 19,
“I am the Lord”

- Appears 15 times
- vv. 3, 4, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 25, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 36, 37

Note the refrain in Leviticus 19, “I am the Lord”

- 3 Each of you must respect his mother and father, and you must observe my Sabbaths. **I am the Lord your God.**
- 4 Do not turn to idols or make gods of cast metal for yourselves. **I am the Lord your God.**
- 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien. **I am the Lord your God.**
- 12 Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. **I am the Lord.**

Note the refrain in Leviticus 19, “I am the Lord”

- 14 Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. **I am the Lord.**
- 16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people. “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. **I am the Lord.**
- 18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. **I am the Lord.**
- 25 But in the fifth year you may eat its fruit. In this way your harvest will be increased. **I am the Lord your God.**

Note the refrain in Leviticus 19, “I am the Lord”

- 28 Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. **I am the Lord.**
- 30 Observe my Sabbaths and have reverence for my sanctuary. **I am the Lord.**
- 31 Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. **I am the Lord your God.**
- 32 Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. **I am the Lord.**

Note the refrain in Leviticus 19, “I am the Lord”

- 34 The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. **I am the Lord your God.**
- 36 Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. **I am the Lord your God**, who brought you out of Egypt.
- 37 Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. **I am the Lord.”**

God's laws are not arbitrary or capricious, they are a reflection of the very nature of God.

He shares them with us precisely so that we can adopt his character and become like him in meaningful ways.

So that we can be different just like he is different.



2 Peter 1:3-4

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

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Daniel 1:11-15

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

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Daniel 1:18-20

At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

Differences that Make a Difference

Daniel 1

Someone once asked me whether I thought that the church where I worked might be worldly.

“What do you mean by ‘worldly’?” I asked him.

“Well, you use drama, and people are used to that in the world. And you play contemporary music just like they’re used to hearing. So how will they know you’re any different?”

JOHN ORTBERG, THE LIFE YOU’VE ALWAYS WANTED, GRAND RAPIDS, ZONDERVAN, 1997, 39.



Differences that Make a Difference

Daniel 1

Everybody knows that as Christians we're supposed to be different from people in the world by being more loving and more gentle, and everybody knows that we're not.

So don't we have to do something to show we're different?"

In other words, if we can't be *holy*, shouldn't we at least be *weird*?

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Daniel 1

I) Determined 1:8

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- I) Determined 1:8
- II) Deferential 1:8b; 1:12

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Daniel 1

- I) Determined 1:8
- II) Deferential 1:8b; 1:12
- III) Dependent 1:17