

LEVITICUS



LAWS OF PURIFICATION

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Dr. S.I. McMillen, in *None of These Diseases*, notes that so many of God's laws had a direct impact of hygiene and health; practices such as circumcision, quarantine, washing in running water, and eating kosher made a real medical difference in keeping the children of Israel free from disease.



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Some of the food forbidden was good some of the time, but not unless it was properly prepared. Pigs spread trichinosis; rabbits spread tularemia. The fish classified as clean are normally free-swimming, whereas scaleless and finless fish are usually bottom feeders and therefore susceptible to a great many more parasites.

Expositor's



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Israel alone is required to observe such special ceremonial cleanness, because they are the holy people; Deuteronomy 14:21 explicitly allows Israelites to sell carcasses to aliens and foreigners. *Apologetics Study Bible*

Deuteronomy 14:21

You shall not eat anything that dies of itself; you may give it to the alien who is within your gates, that he may eat it, or you may sell it to a foreigner; for you are a holy people to the Lord your God...

3 FACTS

- (1) God gave these laws only to the Jewish nation;
- (2) obeying them guaranteed ceremonial purity but didn't automatically make the person holy in character; and
- (3) the laws were temporary and were ended on the cross of Christ



NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:13

In that He says, “*A new covenant,*” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.



PETER

Acts 10:15

And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.”



PETER

Acts 10:28

Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”



PETER

Acts 15:10–11

Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they.



PAUL

Colossians 2:16–17

So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.



PAUL

Romans 14:14

I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean.



PAUL

1 Timothy 4:3–5

... *commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.



JESUS

Mark 7:6–7

He answered and said to them, “Well did
Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is
written: ‘This people honors Me with their
lips, But their heart is far from Me. *And in vain*
they worship Me, Teaching as *doctrines the*
commandments of men.’”



JESUS

Mark 7:18–19 NIV

“Are you so dull?” he asked. “Don’t you see that nothing that enters a man from the outside can make him ‘unclean’? For it doesn’t go into his heart but into his stomach, and then out of his body.” (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods “clean.”)



BE HOLY

Mark 7:20–23

And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

BE HOLY

Like Israel in the Old Testament, believers today must not only walk worthy of their calling and walk in love, but also must “walk circumspectly ... understanding what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:15, 17). We must keep our eyes open and look around carefully lest we defile ourselves. *Wiersbe*



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