

Message Twelve
**Enjoying Christ as the Reality
of the Peace Offering at the Lord's Table
to Present the Total Picture of God's Economy**

Scripture Reading: Lev. 3:1-17; 7:11-38

- Lev 3:1 And if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he presents it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall present it without blemish before Jehovah.
- Lev 3:2 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 3:3 And from the sacrifice of peace offerings he shall present an offering by fire to Jehovah, the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
- Lev 3:4 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.
- Lev 3:5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt offering, which is on the wood that is on the fire; it is an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Lev 3:6 And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offerings to Jehovah is from the flock, he shall present it, male or female, without blemish.
- Lev 3:7 If he presents a lamb for his offering, then he shall present it before Jehovah.
- Lev 3:8 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 3:9 And from the sacrifice of peace offerings he shall present an offering by fire to Jehovah, its fat, the entire fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
- Lev 3:10 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.
- Lev 3:11 And the priest shall burn it on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire to Jehovah.
- Lev 3:12 And if his offering is a goat, then he shall present it before Jehovah.
- Lev 3:13 And he shall lay his hand on its head and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.
- Lev 3:14 And from it he shall present his offering, as an offering by fire to Jehovah, the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
- Lev 3:15 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.
- Lev 3:16 And the priest shall burn them on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire for a satisfying fragrance; all the fat is Jehovah's.
- Lev 3:17 It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places that you shall not eat any fat or any blood.
- Lev 7:11 Now this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings that one shall present to Jehovah:
- Lev 7:12 If he presents it for a thanksgiving, then he shall present with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil and unleavened wafers anointed with oil and saturated cakes of fine flour mingled with oil.
- Lev 7:13 With cakes of leavened bread he shall present his offering with the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving.
- Lev 7:14 And from it he shall present one out of each offering as a heave offering to Jehovah; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings.
- Lev 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.
- Lev 7:16 But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he presents his sacrifice, and on the next day what remains of it shall be eaten;
- Lev 7:17 But what remains of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned with fire.
- Lev 7:18 And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings is eaten at all on the third day, it will not be accepted, neither will it be reckoned to the one who presents it; it will be an abomination, and the person who eats of it shall bear his own iniquity.
- Lev 7:19 And flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten; it shall be burned with fire. And as for other flesh, anyone who is clean may eat such flesh.

- Lev 7:20 But the person who eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, with his uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from his people.
- Lev 7:21 And when anyone touches any unclean thing, the uncleanness of man or an unclean beast or any unclean abomination, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, that person shall be cut off from his people.
- Lev 7:22 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Lev 7:23 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, You shall not eat any fat of an ox or of a sheep or of a goat.
- Lev 7:24 And the fat of an animal that dies and the fat of an animal which is torn by beasts may be put to any other use, but you shall by no means eat it.
- Lev 7:25 For whoever eats the fat of a beast from which someone presents an offering by fire to Jehovah, indeed the person who eats it shall be cut off from his people.
- Lev 7:26 And you shall not eat any blood, either of bird or of beast, in any of your dwelling places.
- Lev 7:27 Any person who eats any blood, that person shall be cut off from his people.
- Lev 7:28 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Lev 7:29 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, He who presents the sacrifice of his peace offerings to Jehovah shall bring his offering to Jehovah out of the sacrifice of his peace offerings.
- Lev 7:30 His own hands shall bring Jehovah's offerings by fire; the fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before Jehovah.
- Lev 7:31 And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be for Aaron and for his sons.
- Lev 7:32 And the right thigh you shall give to the priest for a heave offering out of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.
- Lev 7:33 The one among the sons of Aaron who presents the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh as his portion.
- Lev 7:34 For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons for a perpetual statute to be observed by the children of Israel.
- Lev 7:35 This is the anointing portion of Aaron and the anointing portion of his sons, from Jehovah's offerings by fire, in the day when he presented them to serve Jehovah as priests,
- Lev 7:36 Which Jehovah commanded to be given them from the children of Israel in the day that He anointed them. It shall be a perpetual statute throughout their generations.
- Lev 7:37 This is the law of the burnt offering and of the meal offering and of the sin offering and of the trespass offering and of the consecration and of the sacrifice of peace offerings,
- Lev 7:38 Which Jehovah commanded Moses on Mount Sinai, on the day that He commanded the children of Israel to present their offerings to Jehovah in the wilderness of Sinai.

I. The peace offering signifies Christ as our peace with God that we may enjoy Him with God and with man in fellowship and joy—Lev. 3:1-17; Num. 10:10; Deut. 27:7:

Lev 3:1-17 be omitted.

Num 10:10 Also on your days of rejoicing and at your appointed feasts and at the beginnings of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a reminder on your behalf before your God; I am Jehovah your God.

Deut 27:7 And you shall sacrifice peace offerings and eat there, and you shall rejoice before Jehovah your God.

A. The peace offering is fulfilled primarily in our enjoying Christ at the Lord's table in the breaking of bread for the remembrance of Him and in the offering of Christ to the Father for the worship of the Father—Matt. 26:26-30.

Matt 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.

Matt 26:27 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you,

Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matt 26:29 But I say to you, I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.

Matt 26:30 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

B. The peace offering is the Old Testament type of the Lord's table:

1. At the Lord's table, the believers enjoy Christ as their peace offering for their fellowship with God and with one another; they enjoy Christ before God the Father; without the worship of the Father in the Lord's table meeting, the presentation of the peace offering to God cannot be completely fulfilled—Lev. 7:14-21, 28-34.

Lev 7:14 And from it he shall present one out of each offering as a heave offering to Jehovah; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings.

Lev 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.

Lev 7:16 But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he presents his sacrifice, and on the next day what remains of it shall be eaten;

Lev 7:17 But what remains of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned with fire.

Lev 7:18 And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings is eaten at all on the third day, it will not be accepted, neither will it be reckoned to the one who presents it; it will be an abomination, and the person who eats of it shall bear his own iniquity.

Lev 7:19 And flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten; it shall be burned with fire. And as for other flesh, anyone who is clean may eat such flesh.

Lev 7:20 But the person who eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, with his uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from his people.

Lev 7:21 And when anyone touches any unclean thing, the uncleanness of man or an unclean beast or any unclean abomination, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, that person shall be cut off from his people.

Lev 7:28 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 7:29 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, He who presents the sacrifice of his peace offerings to Jehovah shall bring his offering to Jehovah out of the sacrifice of his peace offerings.

Lev 7:30 His own hands shall bring Jehovah's offerings by fire; the fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before Jehovah.

Lev 7:31 And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be for Aaron and for his sons.

Lev 7:32 And the right thigh you shall give to the priest for a heave offering out of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.

Lev 7:33 The one among the sons of Aaron who presents the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh as his portion.

Lev 7:34 For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons for a perpetual statute to be observed by the children of Israel.

2. We should carry out the Lord's table meeting in two sections:

- a. During the first section of the meeting, all our praises should be addressed to Christ, and we should bless Him with well speaking concerning His person and work—Heb. 13:15; Psa. 8:2; 48:1; 50:23; 116:17; Rev. 5:13.

Heb 13:15 Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name.

Psa 8:2 Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings / You have established strength / Because of Your adversaries, / To stop the enemy and the avenger.

Psa 48:1 Great is Jehovah, / And much to be praised / In the city of our God, / In His holy mountain.

Psa 50:23 Whoever offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifies Me; / And to him who sets his way right I will show the salvation of God.

- Psa 116:17 To You I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving, / And I will call upon the name of Jehovah.
- Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, To Him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be the blessing and the honor and the glory and the might forever and ever.
- b. During the second section of the meeting, we should address our praises to God the Father; it is best to leave one-third or two-fifths of the time for the worship of the Father—Matt. 26:26-30; Heb. 2:12.
- Matt 26:26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread and blessed it, and He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, Take, eat; this is My body.
- Matt 26:27 And He took a cup and gave thanks, and He gave it to them, saying, Drink of it, all of you,
- Matt 26:28 For this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.
- Matt 26:29 But I say to you, I shall by no means drink of this product of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of My Father.
- Matt 26:30 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.
- Heb 2:12 Saying, "I will declare Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the church I will sing hymns of praise to You."
3. Christ as the reality of the peace offering that we enjoy at the Lord's table is for our thanksgiving to the Father (Lev. 7:12-15) and also for a vow to Him (vv. 16-18):
- Lev 7:12 If he presents it for a thanksgiving, then he shall present with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil and unleavened wafers anointed with oil and saturated cakes of fine flour mingled with oil.
- Lev 7:13 With cakes of leavened bread he shall present his offering with the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving.
- Lev 7:14 And from it he shall present one out of each offering as a heave offering to Jehovah; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings.
- Lev 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.
- Lev 7:16 But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he presents his sacrifice, and on the next day what remains of it shall be eaten;
- Lev 7:17 But what remains of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned with fire.
- Lev 7:18 And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings is eaten at all on the third day, it will not be accepted, neither will it be reckoned to the one who presents it; it will be an abomination, and the person who eats of it shall bear his own iniquity.
- a. On the one hand, we may consecrate ourselves to the Lord with thanksgiving by praying, "Lord, I love You, so I consecrate myself to You"; this is good but too general and out of our emotions.
- b. On the other hand, we may offer ourselves to God with a voluntary vow by praying, "Lord, I come here to make a vow to You; I give myself to You and marry myself to You; I want to be solely for You always, regardless of what happens or how I feel"; all of us need to be ones who are married to Christ for His recovery; the offering for a vow is something of the will and is stronger and deeper.
4. This enjoyment of the peace offering issues from the burnt offering, the meal offering, the sin offering, and the trespass offering.
5. Our enjoyment of Christ as these four offerings has a result—the enjoyment of Christ as our peace offering for us to have fellowship with God and with our fellow believers.

II. The peace offering could be of different animals from the herd or from the flock, and it could be either male or female—3:1:

Lev 3:1 And if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he presents it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall present it without blemish before Jehovah.

A. The different kinds of peace offerings signify the different conditions of the offerers' enjoyment of Christ.

B. In verse 1 the male signifies that the offerer's enjoyment of Christ is stronger, whereas the female signifies that the offerer's enjoyment of Christ is weaker—cf. 1 Pet. 3:7.

1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in like manner dwell together with them according to knowledge, as with the weaker, female vessel, assigning honor to them as also to fellow heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

III. As our peace offering, Christ is without blemish, without sins and transgressions—Lev. 3:1; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15.

Lev 3:1 And if his offering is a sacrifice of peace offerings, if he presents it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall present it without blemish before Jehovah.

Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 Pet 1:19 But with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, the blood of Christ;

2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin.

IV. The sprinkling of the blood of the peace offering on and around the altar (Lev. 3:2, 8, 13), where the offerer was standing, indicates that the blood is for peace in the offerer's conscience, giving him the assurance that his sins have been washed away (Heb. 9:14b).

Lev 3:2 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood on and around the altar.

Lev 3:8 And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.

Lev 3:13 And he shall lay his hand on its head and slaughter it before the Tent of Meeting, and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood on and around the altar.

Heb 9:14b ... purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

V. Christ as the peace offering is for the fellowship and enjoyment of five parties: God, the serving priest, all the priests (the priesthood), the offerer, and the congregation of cleansed people:

A. The fat and the inward parts of the offering were God's portion—Lev. 3:3-5:

Lev 3:3 And from the sacrifice of peace offerings he shall present an offering by fire to Jehovah, the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,

Lev 3:4 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.

Lev 3:5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt offering, which is on the wood that is on the fire; it is an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

1. The fat signifies the inward riches of Christ as the abundance of life for God's satisfaction according to His glory, and the inward parts signify the tenderness, smallness, and preciousness of what Christ is in His inward being toward God (cf. Phil. 1:8; John 7:3-18) for God's satisfaction, which can be apprehended and appreciated only by God (Matt. 11:27a).

Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.

John 7:3 His brothers therefore said to Him, Depart from here and go into Judea, so that Your disciples also may behold Your works which You are doing;

John 7:4 For no one does anything in secret and himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, manifest Yourself to the world.

John 7:5 For not even His brothers believed into Him.

John 7:6 Jesus therefore said to them, My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready.

John 7:7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me, because I testify concerning it, that its works are evil.

John 7:8 You go up to the feast; I am not going up to this feast, because My time has not yet been fulfilled.

John 7:9 And having said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

John 7:10 But when His brothers had gone up to the feast, then He Himself also went up, not openly, but as it were in secret.

John 7:11 The Jews therefore sought Him at the feast and said, Where is He?

John 7:12 And there was much murmuring about Him among the crowds: some said, He is a good man; but others said, No; rather He leads the crowd astray.

John 7:13 Yet no one spoke openly about Him for fear of the Jews.

John 7:14 But when it was now the middle of the feast, Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach.

John 7:15 The Jews therefore marveled and said, How does this man know letters, without ever having studied?

John 7:16 Jesus therefore answered them and said, My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

John 7:17 If anyone resolves to do His will, he will know concerning the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

John 7:18 He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of Him who sent Him, this One is true, and unrighteousness is not in Him.

Matt 11:27a All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one fully knows the Son except the Father; ...

2. The burning of the fat and the inward parts of the peace offering as an offering by fire to Jehovah (Lev. 3:3-5, 9-11, 14-16) signifies that God should be the first Enjoyer, enjoying the first, the best, part of the peace offering.

Lev 3:3 And from the sacrifice of peace offerings he shall present an offering by fire to Jehovah, the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,

Lev 3:4 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.

Lev 3:5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt offering, which is on the wood that is on the fire; it is an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Lev 3:9 And from the sacrifice of peace offerings he shall present an offering by fire to Jehovah, its fat, the entire fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,

Lev 3:10 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.

Lev 3:11 And the priest shall burn it on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire to Jehovah.

Lev 3:14 And from it he shall present his offering, as an offering by fire to Jehovah, the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,

Lev 3:15 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.

Lev 3:16 And the priest shall burn them on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire for a satisfying fragrance; all the fat is Jehovah's.

B. The four kinds of cakes and the right thigh as a heave offering were the portion of the serving priest—7:14, 32-34.

Lev 7:14 And from it he shall present one out of each offering as a heave offering to Jehovah; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings.

- Lev 7:32 And the right thigh you shall give to the priest for a heave offering out of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.
- Lev 7:33 The one among the sons of Aaron who presents the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh as his portion.
- Lev 7:34 For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons for a perpetual statute to be observed by the children of Israel.
- C. The breast as a wave offering was for all the priests—vv. 30-31, 34.
- Lev 7:30 His own hands shall bring Jehovah's offerings by fire; the fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before Jehovah.
- Lev 7:31 And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be for Aaron and for his sons.
- Lev 7:34 For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons for a perpetual statute to be observed by the children of Israel.
- D. The flesh, the meat, of the offering was the portion of the offerer—vv. 15-18.
- Lev 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.
- Lev 7:16 But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a freewill offering, it shall be eaten on the day that he presents his sacrifice, and on the next day what remains of it shall be eaten;
- Lev 7:17 But what remains of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burned with fire.
- Lev 7:18 And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings is eaten at all on the third day, it will not be accepted, neither will it be reckoned to the one who presents it; it will be an abomination, and the person who eats of it shall bear his own iniquity.
- E. The remaining flesh of the cattle, under the condition of cleanness, was for all the congregation—vv. 19-21:
- Lev 7:19 And flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten; it shall be burned with fire. And as for other flesh, anyone who is clean may eat such flesh.
- Lev 7:20 But the person who eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, with his uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from his people.
- Lev 7:21 And when anyone touches any unclean thing, the uncleanness of man or an unclean beast or any unclean abomination, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, that person shall be cut off from his people.
1. The enjoyment of Christ as our peace should be kept from all uncleanness, and Christ as the peace offering should be eaten by a clean person—v. 19; 1 Cor. 11:28.

Lev 7:19 And flesh that touches any unclean thing shall not be eaten; it shall be burned with fire. And as for other flesh, anyone who is clean may eat such flesh.

1 Cor 11:28 But let a man prove himself, and in this way let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
 2. The unclean person who partakes of Christ as his peace, as at the Lord's table, shall be put aside from the fellowship of the enjoyment of Christ—Lev. 7:20-21; 1 Cor. 10:16-17.

Lev 7:20 But the person who eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, with his uncleanness upon him, that person shall be cut off from his people.

Lev 7:21 And when anyone touches any unclean thing, the uncleanness of man or an unclean beast or any unclean abomination, and eats of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which belong to Jehovah, that person shall be cut off from his people.

1 Cor 10:16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?

1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

3. Such a sinful person should be removed from the fellowship at the Lord's table—cf. 5:13b.
1 Cor 5:13b ... Remove the evil man from among yourselves.
 4. Also, the dirtiness of death spoils the significance of God's enjoyment of Christ; God hates death and does not want to look upon anything related to it—Lev. 7:24.
Lev 7:24 And the fat of an animal that dies and the fat of an animal which is torn by beasts may be put to any other use, but you shall by no means eat it.
- F. We who take Christ as our peace offering should offer the excellent part of Christ (the fat) to God for His satisfaction, the loving part of Christ in His resurrection (the breast as a wave offering) and the strong part of Christ in His ascension (the right thigh as a heave offering) being for the serving ones' enjoyment (vv. 29-34; Exo. 29:26-28); in our enjoyment of Christ as the peace offering, God has allotted the loving capacity and the strengthening power of Christ to us, the New Testament priests (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10), as our eternal portion for our enjoyment in serving God.
- Lev 7:29 Speak to the children of Israel, saying, He who presents the sacrifice of his peace offerings to Jehovah shall bring his offering to Jehovah out of the sacrifice of his peace offerings.
- Lev 7:30 His own hands shall bring Jehovah's offerings by fire; the fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before Jehovah.
- Lev 7:31 And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be for Aaron and for his sons.
- Lev 7:32 And the right thigh you shall give to the priest for a heave offering out of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.
- Lev 7:33 The one among the sons of Aaron who presents the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh as his portion.
- Lev 7:34 For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons for a perpetual statute to be observed by the children of Israel.
- Exo 29:26 And you shall take the breast of the ram of Arron's consecration and wave it as a wave offering before Jehovah; and it shall be your portion.
- Exo 29:27 And you shall sanctify the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering which was waved and which was heaved up from the ram of consecration, from that which is for Aaron and from that which is for his sons.
- Exo 29:28 And it shall become a perpetual statute for Aaron and his sons to be observed by the children of Israel, for it is a heave offering; and it shall be a heave offering from the children of Israel from the sacrifices of their peace offerings, their heave offering to Jehovah.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
- Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- G. In the New Testament there are no clergy and no laity (see Rev. 2:6 and footnote 1); thus, all the believers in Christ should be the serving priests, the priestly body, the offerers, and the congregation.
- Rev 2:6 But this you have, that you hate the works of the ¹Nicolaitans, which I also hate.
note 1 The Greek word is composed of two words, one meaning conquer or be victorious

over and another meaning common people, secular people, or laity. Thus, it means conquering the common people, being victorious over the laity. Nicolaitans, then, must refer to a group of people who esteem themselves higher than common believers. This was undoubtedly the hierarchy adopted and established by Catholicism and Protestantism. The Lord hates the works, the behavior, of these Nicolaitans, and we must hate what the Lord hates.

God in His economy intended that all His people be priests serving Him directly. In Exo. 19:6, God ordained the children of Israel to be a kingdom of priests. This means that God wanted them all to be priests. However, because they worshipped the golden calf (Exo. 32:1-6), they lost the priesthood, and only the tribe of Levi, because of its faithfulness to God, was chosen to replace the whole nation of Israel as priests to God (Exo. 32:25-29; Deut. 33:8-10). Hence, there was a mediatorial class between God and the children of Israel. This became a strong system in Judaism. In the New Testament, God has returned to His original intention according to His economy, in that He has made all believers in Christ priests (1:6; 5:10; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9). But at the end of the initial church, even in the first century, the Nicolaitans intervened as the mediatorial class to spoil God's economy. According to church history, this became a system that was adopted by the Roman Catholic Church and has been retained by the Protestant churches. Today in the Roman Catholic Church there is the priestly system, in the state churches there is the clerical system, and in the independent churches there is the pastoral system. All these are a mediatorial class, spoiling the universal priesthood of all believers. Thus, there are two distinct classes — the clergy and the laity. But in the proper church life there should be neither clergy nor laity; all believers should be priests of God. Because the mediatorial class destroys the universal priesthood in God's economy, the Lord hates it.

Among the seven serving ones in Acts 6:5, one was named Nikolaos (Gk.). There is nothing in church history to indicate that this Nikolaos was the first of the Nicolaitans.

VI. Not eating the fat signifies that the best part of Christ is for God's satisfaction; not eating the blood signifies that Christ's blood shed for our redemption fully satisfies the requirements of God's righteousness, holiness, and glory—Lev. 3:17; cf. Gen. 3:24; Heb. 10:19-20; Rev. 22:14:

- Lev 3:17 It shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwelling places that you shall not eat any fat or any blood.
- Gen 3:24 So He drove the man out, and at the east of the garden of Eden He placed the cherubim and a flaming sword which turned in every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.
- Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
- Heb 10:20 Which entrance He initiated for us as a new and living way through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter by the gates into the city.

A. Thus, in the universe only Jesus' blood is edible to His believers—John 6:53-56 and footnote 2 on v. 54.

John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within yourselves.

John 6:54 He who eats My ²flesh and drinks My ²blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day.

note 2 Here flesh and blood are mentioned separately. The separation of blood and flesh indicates death. Here the Lord clearly indicated His death, that is, His being slain. He gave His body and shed His blood for us that we may have eternal life. To eat His flesh is to receive by faith all that He did in giving His body for us; and to drink His blood is to receive by faith all that He accomplished in shedding His blood for us. To eat His flesh and drink His blood is to receive Him, in His redemption, as life and the life supply by believing in what He did for us on the cross. By comparing this verse with v. 47, we see that to eat the Lord's flesh and drink His blood is to believe in Him, because to believe or to believe into is to receive (1:12).

- John 6:55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
 John 6:56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me and I in him.
- B. To eat any other blood would make Christ's blood common—Heb. 10:29 and footnote 3.
 Heb 10:29 By how much do you think he will be thought worthy of worse punishment who has trampled underfoot the Son of God and has³ considered the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing and has insulted the Spirit of grace?
 note 3 If the Hebrew believers had returned to Judaism to offer the old sacrifices and thus rely on the blood of slain animals, they would have been, in effect, considering the precious blood of Christ a common thing. This would have been to seriously disregard the unique redemptive work of Christ.
- C. The blood of Christ satisfies God's righteous requirements, maintains God's holy position, and keeps God's glory, His expressed dignity.

VII. A lamb signifies that the offerer enjoys Christ in His perfection and beauty (Lev. 3:7), whereas a goat (v. 12) signifies that the offerer enjoys Christ not much in His perfection and beauty but in His being made sin on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21).

- Lev 3:7 If he presents a lamb for his offering, then he shall present it before Jehovah.
 Lev 3:12 And if his offering is a goat, then he shall present it before Jehovah.
 2 Cor 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

VIII. The peace offering is a kind of burnt offering (Lev. 3:9-11; 1:9, 13, 17) as food to God for His satisfaction and enjoyment.

- Lev 3:9 And from the sacrifice of peace offerings he shall present an offering by fire to Jehovah, its fat, the entire fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone, and the fat that covers the inward parts and all the fat that is on the inward parts,
 Lev 3:10 And the two kidneys and the fat that is on them, which is on the loins; and the appendage on the liver, which he shall remove with the kidneys.
 Lev 3:11 And the priest shall burn it on the altar; it is the food of the offering by fire to Jehovah.
 Lev 1:9 But its inward parts and its legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall burn the whole on the altar, as a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
 Lev 1:13 But the inward parts and the legs he shall wash with water. Then the priest shall present the whole and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
 Lev 1:17 Then he shall tear it open by its wings without dividing it, and the priest shall burn it on the altar on the wood that is on the fire; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

IX. The peace offering is based upon God's satisfaction in the burnt offering (6:12); according to the sequence of the offerings presented in Leviticus 1:1—6:7, it is also the issue of the enjoyment of God and man in the meal offering; if we would enjoy Christ as peace in a practical, daily way, we must first take Him as our burnt offering to satisfy God, and then we must feed on Him as our meal offering, enjoying Him as our food.

- Lev 6:12 And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it; it must not go out. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall lay the burnt offering in order upon it and shall burn the fat of the peace offerings on it.
 Lev 1:1-6:7 be omitted.

X. The sequence of the five offerings in Leviticus 1:1—6:7 is according to our practical experience, whereas the sequence in 6:8—7:38 is according to the total picture of God's economy:

- Lev 1:1-6:7 be omitted.

Lev 6:8-7:38 be omitted.

- A. According to the sequence of the offerings in Leviticus 6:8—7:38, the peace offering is also based on the sin offering and the trespass offering; when the problem of our sin and trespasses is solved by Christ as the sin offering and trespass offering and when God and we are satisfied with Christ as the burnt offering and the meal offering, we can offer Christ to God as the peace offering for our mutual enjoyment in peace.

Lev 6:8-7:38 be omitted.

- B. In God's heart and in His desire God would have Christ to be four kinds of offerings to us—the burnt offering, the meal offering, the sin offering, and the trespass offering—that we may enjoy Christ as peace with God in every way; Christ's being these four offerings consummates in peace between God and God's people, and this peace is simply Christ Himself—Eph. 2:14.

Eph 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,

- C. Eventually, the enjoyment of Christ as all the offerings, issuing in the peace offering, will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the ultimate peace offering (*Jerusalem* means “the foundation of peace”), in which we will enjoy the Triune God as peace (Phil. 4:7, 9) for eternity.

Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every man's understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.

- D. Thus, the ordinances, or laws, concerning the offerings are a record of the totality of God's economy.