

Message Seven

Chosen to Be Holy with a Holy Living to Express the Holy God and Become the Holy City

EM Hymns: 22

Scripture Reading: Lev. 18—20;

Eph. 1:4; 5:26-27; 1 Thes. 5:23; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 21:2, 9-10

Lev 18~20	be omitted.
Eph 1:4	Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
Eph 5:26	That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
Eph 5:27	That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
1 Thes 5:23	And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
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 21:2	And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
Rev 21:9	And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
Rev 21:10	And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

I. We were chosen in Christ to be holy in eternity past; we are being sanctified, saturated with Christ as “the Spirit, the Holy,” to be holy in this age; and we will be consummated to be the holy city in the next age and for eternity future— Eph. 1:4; 1 Thes. 5:23; Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 19:7-9; 21:2, 9-10:

Eph 1:4	Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
1 Thes 5:23	And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Eph 5:26	That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
Eph 5:27	That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
Rev 19:7	Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
Rev 19:8	And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
Rev 19:9	And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
Rev 21:2	And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
Rev 21:9	And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.
Rev 21:10	And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

A. *Holy* means not only sanctified, separated unto God, but also different, distinct, from everything that is common; only God is different, distinct, from all things; hence, He is holy, and holiness is His nature:

1. He chose us that we should be holy (Eph. 1:4), and He makes us holy by imparting Himself, the Holy One, into our being, that our whole being may be permeated and saturated with His holy nature; for us, God’s chosen ones, to be holy is to partake of

God's divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4) and to have our whole being permeated with God Himself.

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

2 Pet 1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

2. This is different from mere sinless perfection or sinless purity; this makes our being holy in God's nature and character, just like God Himself.

B. The Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love—Eph. 1:3-4:

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

1. God's chosen ones should be saturated only with God Himself, having no foreign particles, such as the fallen natural human element, the flesh, the self, or worldly things; this is to be without blemish, without any mixture, without any element other than God's holy nature.

2. We do not become Christ's bride by self-correction but by being saturated with God; this is the holiness, the sanctification, revealed in the Bible—1 Thes. 5:23; Rom. 6:19, 22.

1 Thes 5:23 And the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom 6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom 6:22 But now, having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end, eternal life.

3. The church, after being thoroughly washed by the water in the word, will be sanctified in such a way as to be saturated and beautified with Christ organically so that she may be His glorious church, His holy bride—Eph. 5:25-27; cf. John 17:17.

Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

4. In Ephesians 1:4 *love* refers to the love with which God loves His chosen ones and His chosen ones love Him; it is in this love, in such a love, that God's chosen ones become holy and without blemish before Him:

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

- a. First, God loved us; then this divine love inspires us to love Him in return—*Hymns, #546, #547.*

Hymns #546

1. I love my Lord, but with no love of mine,
For I have none to give;
I love Thee, Lord, but all the love is Thine,
For by Thy love I live.
I am as nothing, and rejoice to be
Emptied, and lost, and swallowed up in Thee.
2. Thou, Lord, alone, art all Thy children need,

And there is none beside;
 From Thee the streams of blessedness proceed,
 In Thee the bless'd abide.
 Fountain of life, and all-abounding grace,
 Our source, our center, and our dwelling place.

Hymns #547.

1. Something every heart is loving:
 If not Jesus, none can rest;
 Lord, my heart to Thee is given;
 Take it, for it loves Thee best.
2. Thus I cast the world behind me;
 Jesus most beloved shall be;
 Beauteous more than all things beauteous,
 He alone is joy to me.
3. Bright with all eternal radiance
 Is the glory of Thy face;
 Thou art loving, sweet, and tender,
 Full of pity, full of grace.
4. When I hated, Thou didst love me,
 Shedd'st for me Thy precious blood;
 Still Thou lovest, lovest ever,
 Shall I not love Thee, my God?
5. Keep my heart still faithful to Thee,
 That my earthly life may be
 But a shadow to that glory
 Of my hidden life in Thee.

b. In such a condition and atmosphere of love, we are saturated with God to be holy and without blemish, just as He is.

- C. To be holy is first to be separated to God; second, to be taken over by God; third, to be possessed by God; and fourth, to be saturated with God and one with God.
- D. Eventually, the issue of this is the New Jerusalem, a holy entity belonging to God, possessed by God, saturated with God, and one with God.

II. Leviticus 18—20 is on the holy living of God's holy people and corresponds to Ephesians 4:17—5:14, which charges the holy people of God to put off the old man and put on the new man, living a life that is holy, as God is holy, for His expression:

Lev 18~20 be omitted.

Eph 4:17~5:14 be omitted.

- A. In Ephesians 4:17-32 there are three significant verses that show the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity as the base for living a holy life for the church life:
- Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
- Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
- Eph 4:19 Who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lasciviousness to work all uncleanness in greediness.
- Eph 4:20 But you did not so learn Christ,
- Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
- Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
- Eph 4:23 And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.
- Eph 4:25 Therefore having put off the lie, speak truth each one with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.

- Eph 4:26 Be angry, yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your indignation,
 Eph 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.
 Eph 4:28 He who steals should steal no more, but rather should labor, working with his own hands in that which is respectable, that he may have something to share with him who has need.
- Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for building up, according to the need, that it may give grace to those who hear.
- Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.
- Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and anger and wrath and clamor and evil speaking be removed from you, with all malice.
- Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ also forgave you.
1. The first is verse 18, which speaks of being alienated from the life of God; the life of God is for supplying His children with His divine riches in His divine dispensing.
 Eph 4:18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;
 2. The second is verse 21, which speaks of the reality in Jesus; the reality in Jesus is the practicality of the life of God that took place in Jesus while He lived on earth; it is the actual condition of the life of Jesus as recorded in the four Gospels:
 Eph 4:21 If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him as the reality is in Jesus,
 - a. In the daily life of Jesus, as recorded in the four Gospels, there was something very real, and that real thing was just God's divine life realized and practiced as the reality in Jesus' humanity.
 - b. This reality in Jesus is for infusing the believers with Christ's godly living in His humanity, in His divine dispensing.
 3. The third is verse 30, which admonishes us to not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom we were sealed unto the day of redemption:
 Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.
 - a. The sealing Spirit is also the sealing ink, and the contents, elements, and essence of this sealing ink are the divine life plus Jesus' practical humanity; this sealing remains wet forever to saturate, permeate, and soak us with the Triune God.
 - b. The life of God, the reality in Jesus, and the sealing of the Holy Spirit are the three sources of the divine dispensing for our holy living to express the holy God:
 - 1) The Father's life must become the truth in our daily living, which truth is the reality in Jesus; this truth as the practicality of the life of the Father becomes the sealing ink, which is the Holy Spirit.
 - 2) While the sealing ink seals, it saturates, permeates, and soaks us with the divine life in the practicality of Jesus' daily life, making us a "Xerox copy" of Jesus' life, which is the practicality of the Father's life.
- B. The Israelites' not living in the manner of the Egyptians (Lev. 18:3), among whom they once lived, signifies that the believers should put off, as regards their former old way of living, the old man (Eph. 4:22).
 Lev 18:3 You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, in which you dwelt; and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, nor shall you walk in their statutes.
 Eph 4:22 That you put off, as regards your former manner of life, the old man, which is being corrupted according to the lusts of the deceit,
- C. The Israelites' not living in the manner of the Canaanites (Lev. 18:3), to whose land they were to be brought, signifies that, after being saved, the believers should not be conformed

to the living and conduct of the worldly people (Rom. 12:2).

Lev 18:3 You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, in which you dwelt; and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, nor shall you walk in their statutes.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

- D. The Israelites' living a holy life according to God's holiness (Lev. 18:4—20:27) signifies that the believers should put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality (Eph. 4:24).

Lev 18:4~20:27 be omitted.

Eph 4:24 And put on the new man, which was created according to God in righteousness and holiness of the reality.

- E. "Because the land has become defiled, I visited its iniquity upon it, and the land vomited out its inhabitants"—Lev. 18:25; cf. v. 28; 20:22:

Lev 18:28 That the land does not vomit you out when you defile it, as it vomited out the nation which was before you.

Lev 20:22 You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My ordinances, and do them, so that the land into which I am bringing you to dwell in does not vomit you out.

1. The good land, signifying the all-inclusive Christ, is the supply for the existence and living of God's people and is also for their enjoyment.

2. The good land vomiting out the defiled and unholy people signifies that the all-inclusive Christ as our dwelling place and everything we need for our enjoyment will vomit us out of Himself and not allow us to enjoy Him any longer (cf. Rev. 3:16) if we are not proper in relation to Him.

Rev 3:16 So, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to spew you out of My mouth.

- F. Being holy because God is holy (Lev. 19:2; 20:7, 26) signifies walking according to God's holiness, living a holy life (1 Pet. 1:15; 2 Pet. 3:11).

Lev 19:2 Speak to all the assembly of the children of Israel, and say to them, You shall be holy, for I, Jehovah your God, am holy.

Lev 20:7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be holy; for I am Jehovah your God.

Lev 20:26 And you shall be holy to Me, because I Jehovah am holy, and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

1 Pet 1:15 But according to the Holy One who called you, you yourselves also be holy in all your manner of life;

2 Pet 3:11 Since all these things are to be thus dissolved, what kind of persons ought you to be in holy manner of life and godliness,

- G. Leviticus 19:5 and 6 mention the peace offering, indicating that in the holy living of God's holy people, as portrayed in chapters 18—20, it is important that God's holy people have fellowship, communion, mutual enjoyment, in peace:

Lev 19:5 And when you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to Jehovah, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

Lev 19:6 It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it, or on the next day, but what remains until the third day shall be burned with fire.

Lev 18~20 be omitted.

1. The believers' enjoyment of Christ as the peace offering should be kept fresh; stale fellowship with one another and with God is not acceptable but is abhorrent to God—19:5-7; cf. Rom. 6:4; 7:6.

Lev 19:5 And when you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to Jehovah, you shall sacrifice it so that you may be accepted.

Lev 19:6 It shall be eaten on the day you sacrifice it, or on the next day, but what remains until the third day shall be burned with fire.

Lev 19:7 But if it is eaten at all on the third day, it is an abomination; it will not be accepted.

- Rom 6:4 We have been buried therefore with Him through baptism into His death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life.
- Rom 7:6 But now we have been discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of letter.
2. The one who participates in stale fellowship is guilty of having despised the holy things of God and will lose the fellowship among God's people—Lev. 19:8.
- Lev 19:8 And whoever eats it will bear his own iniquity, because he has profaned what is holy to Jehovah; and that person shall be cut off from his people.
- H. "You shall not let your cattle breed with a different kind; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor shall a garment made of two kinds of material come upon you"—v. 19:
1. The fact that no mixture was allowed means that God wants everything to be according to its kind, without any kind of mixture—cf. Gen. 1:11, 21, 24-25.
- Gen 1:11 And God said, Let the earth sprout grass, herbs yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit according to their kind with their seed in them upon the earth; and it was so.
- Gen 1:21 And God created the great sea creatures and every living animal that moves, with which the waters swarmed, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind; and God saw that it was good.
- Gen 1:24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth living animals according to their kind, cattle and creeping things and animals of the earth according to their kind; and it was so.
- Gen 1:25 And God made the animals of the earth according to their kind and the cattle according to their kind and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind, and God saw that it was good.
2. Breeding cattle without mixture signifies that life is not allowed to be mixed: those living by the life of God must not live by the flesh—cf. Gal. 5:16-17.
- Gal 5:16 But I say, Walk by the Spirit and you shall by no means fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these oppose each other that you would not do the things that you desire.
3. Sowing seed without mixture signifies that the ministry of the word is not allowed to be mixed: the word of God that is ministered should not be mixed with the word of the world—2 Cor. 2:17; 1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Tim. 1:3-4.
- 2 Cor 2:17 For we are not like the many, adulterating the word of God for profit; but as out of sincerity, but as out of God, before God we speak in Christ.
- 1 Cor 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual words.
- 1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
4. Making a garment without mixing materials signifies that our conduct is not allowed to be mixed: those living in the life of the New Testament should not live by the ordinances of the Old Testament (Gal. 2:19-20; 5:1-6), and those who belong to the Lord should not live according to the customs of the Gentiles (Lev. 20:23; cf. Eph. 4:17; Rom. 12:2a; 2 Cor. 6:14—7:1).
- Gal 2:19 For I through law have died to law that I might live to God.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
- Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free; stand fast therefore, and do not be entangled with a yoke of slavery again.
- Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.
- Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to do the whole law.
- Gal 5:4 You have been brought to nought, separated from Christ, you who are being justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

- Gal 5:5 For we by the Spirit out of faith eagerly await the hope of righteousness.
- Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything nor uncircumcision, but faith avails, operating through love.
- Lev 20:23 And you shall not walk in the customs of the nation, which I am about to send away before you. Because they did all these things, so I abhorred them.
- Eph 4:17 This therefore I say and testify in the Lord, that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,
- Rom 12:2a And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind ...
- 2 Cor 6:14 Do not become dissimilarly yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership do righteousness and lawlessness have? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness?
- 2 Cor 6:15 And what concord does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?
- 2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement does the temple of God have with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, even as God said, "I will dwell among them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people."
- 2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "come out from their midst and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you";
- 2 Cor 6:18 "And I will be a Father to you, and you will be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty."
- 2 Cor 7:1 Therefore since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and of spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

III. We need to live a holy life, a life that befits our priesthood; we can be such persons only by contacting the perfect Christ, enjoying Him and experiencing Him day by day; He will make us complete, perfect, and properly balanced; then we shall have all the qualifications required for us to serve as priests in the New Testament age—1 Pet. 2:5, 9; cf. Lev. 21:16-24.

- 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;
- Lev 21:16 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Lev 21:17 Speak to Aaron, saying, No one of your seed throughout their generations who has a defect shall approach to present the food of his God.
- Lev 21:18 For no one who has a defect shall approach: one who is blind or lame or with a disfigured nose or with an extended limb,
- Lev 21:19 Or one who has a broken foot or a broken hand,
- Lev 21:20 Or a hunchback or a dwarf, or one who has a defect in his eye or eczema or scale or crushed testicles.
- Lev 21:21 No one of the seed of Aaron the priest who has a defect shall come near to present Jehovah's offerings by fire. He has a defect; he shall not come near to present the food of his God.
- Lev 21:22 He may eat the food of his God, both of the most holy and of the holy,
- Lev 21:23 But he shall not go in unto the veil or come near to the altar, because he has a defect, so that he does not profane My holy places; for I am Jehovah who sanctifies them.
- Lev 21:24 So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the children of Israel.