

Leviticus 19

Part 3

by Vic Zarley

As I read the third book of the Bible, Leviticus, I came to the 19th chapter in which I felt the Holy Spirit begin to move in me to write some things down. This is the third of three pass around pages in which I share insights that blessed me.

16 Do not go about spreading slander among your people.

Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor's life. I am the LORD [NIV].

If we are spreading slander among our people, we have most certainly missed the points presented earlier in Leviticus 19. We must deliberately choose not to do anything that endangers the lives of our neighbors. Since Jesus is the only way, truth and life that actually makes life meaningful in this world, let's choose not to "endanger" anyone by turning them off from Christ's love, by our actions. By our free will, we must make this choice. Never expect things to take a natural course of action toward healing. "Natural" in this world is completely foreign to the truth in God's heaven. That's why Jesus prays, in the Lord's Prayer, "...Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

17 Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt. [NIV]

Jesus spends much time in the New Testament discussing the importance of not having a defiled heart. Hating our brothers is indicative of a defiled heart. In addition, we must not so much rebuke our neighbors (as that goes against Jesus' command to love our neighbors, as well as our enemies) as rebuke his actions, if necessary. Please be very cautious of rebuking anyone for we often do this from a vantage point of judgment. Strive to hear the Holy Spirit (that still small voice within) as to whether you should say anything at all. Often God uses other people to move US toward Him by our humble prayer for them. Do not think that only others need healing.

18 Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD. [NIV]

To get a good view of what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves, review the Good Samaritan in the New Testament. To not seek revenge is a choice. It is a choice to forgive, rather than seek vengeance. It is a choice to let go of bad stuff people do in this world. This "bad stuff" can be identified as very insignificant—an order not brought in a timely manner in a restaurant, to very significant—a drunk driver killing our children. We will never be able to "correct" the large ones, so we must release them to the Lord and strive for healing in our souls but, if we can get out of the mindset of having to correct all of the small things, we will begin to get a picture of what it is like to follow Jesus all the way. He says if someone wants to borrow our shirt, give them our jacket, too. If someone wants to lend

them some money, don't worry about them paying it back. There's an attitude here that says, "Forget the small stuff—and its all small stuff."

Seeking revenge appears to be a choice we make (and we can make another choice), but to not bear a grudge? Do we have any choice in that? If we can get into the habit of defining things in a new way, we will be able to cease holding grudges. Until then, as long as we are doing things the way Satan wants them done, we will be on a fruitless journey of correction for every large and small thing this world offers—and when people don't cooperate by correcting their misdeed and repenting from ever making that mistake again, we will be accumulating grudges to hold, like a squirrel gathers nuts for the winter. Our grudges, though, will not sustain us, but cause us to fall into a sort of winter of the soul. As I've said, the only way to not hold a grudge is to learn to see things in a new way. We must not forget to train ourselves, change your behavior, repent from the world's ways of seeing so that we can begin to see through the eyes of Christ, rather than through a glass darkly. This is done through repetition. Do not be afraid to repeat statements from the Bible that you want to know. It holds the truth and we must desire to grasp it and hold it near and dear to us until it is embedded into us, enabling Christ to become our source and our first response to the world's rudeness, instead of Satan.

26. ...Do not practice divination or sorcery. [NIV]

The reason we want to avoid divination and sorcery is because they promote an attitude of self-sufficiency. Of ourselves, we can do nothing. If we try to "materialize" our wealth or our health or our friendships and spouses in this way, we are submitting to the same error that got us ejected from the Garden eons ago. We are attempting to usurp God's will, and make our will dominant instead. Jesus says to seek first the kingdom, and all things (we need) will be added unto us. God knows what's best for us. We often grasp for things that will take us off the path God has put us on, thereby avoiding the deep Christian lessons He wants us to get so that He can direct us on our ministry, for we do all have a ministry. Do we think we know more than God, what is best for us? Ask God what to pray for and seek to hear His wisdom. If this is desired with all of your heart, He will find a way to communicate to you, through His Holy Spirit, even in the midst of this world's noisy clanging gongs.



31 Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God. [NIV]

Seek ye first the kingdom, and everything we need to know will be provided. God is the only Spirit we need to turn to. Seeking things through mediums will bring us into a sense of self-sufficiency, again. Self-sufficiency is a mockery to God. It makes God impotent in our minds, because we cease giving Him all the praise and glory. We lose

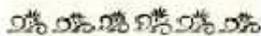
respect for God. This does nothing to change God, or decrease His power in any way. But it does defile us, because we begin to believe a lie and, over time, will be able to justify that lie. But, all that really happens when this occurs, is defilement of the mind—which is correctable through the mighty saving power of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

33 When an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him.

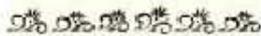
34 The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. [NIV]

People who do not conform to our beliefs could be considered aliens in our midst. They are from another planet, as far as we're concerned. We must love them as we love ourselves and remember that we were lost, too, until we found Jesus Christ and made Him our Lord and Savior. Have pity on people. As we think of them, we will think of God. Deny them, and we will feel denied by God because, as Matthew 7:2 says, "God will do to us, what we do to others." Remember always God's amazing grace and be willing to give that same grace to others.

What a joy it is to be a Christian. There is nothing in this world like it. Be the kind of person that would draw others to Christianity (if you are a Christian). If you are not a Christian, come into the loving arms of the Lord, Jesus Christ right now. He needs you to lead others, by your behavior and words, into the kingdom of heaven.



Oh, Father God. I have made many mistakes in my life. And those are just the ones I know about. Please, God, I want to be like Your Son, Jesus. I want to be forgiven of my sins and I want to forgive others of their sins toward me. I want to be one of Your children, Lord, and help others see You as they see me. I cry out to you, Father, as a little child cries out to his daddy. I know, by the blood you shed on the cross for me, that you have made my life different, Lord. I want to recognize that difference, I want to BE that difference, now. No more, God, do I want to live a mundane life in which I am protected on all sides from pain and discomfort—but not really living. I want to fully immerse myself in You, God, and Your will. My life is not worth living as I have lived it, Lord. Take my life and make it a worthwhile life as I live it totally for You. In Jesus' mighty name I pray. Amen.



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Thank you, and God bless you.
Vic and Eva Zarley

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