

CHASE LIFE

Deuteronomy & The Beauty of Obedience

Be Holy in All You Do

... for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession. (Deut. 14:2 NIV)

Holiness

Because American perspectives are widely secular and profane, holiness can be a hard concept for us to grasp. What is holiness? Holiness is the sum total of God's other-worldly character: His perfections, His morality, His justice, His jealousy, His wrath, His compassion, His timelessness, His glory, and His all-encompassing power and knowledge. God's holiness is both terrifying and reassuring.

We make objects, places, times, actions, and persons holy when we do two things: (1) _____ them from the profane and (2) _____ them with God. Israel was only to eat kosher foods ("kosher" = "proper") in order to indicate that even their food is holy. Jesus teaches a new definition of kosher, but the mandate to be holy remains. Because God is holy, He expects you to be holy in all you do (Lev. 11:45, 1 Peter 1:15-16). Failure to honor God's holiness is _____.



The ruins of Shiloh, showing the ancient leveled spot where the tabernacle likely stood (dmy)

Holy Foods and Holy Resources (Deut. 14:1-29)

- **Deut. 14:1-2. Do not cut:** Apparently, the pagans of Canaan practiced cutting themselves as a religious act (see 1 Kings 18:28 "as was their custom"). The reason for kosher eating and for tithing is simple: the Israelites were to be separate from the pagan world and joined to a holy God.
- **14:3-8. Animals:** Jews could eat mammals that had both a split hoof and that chewed their cud (or appeared to chew the cud as in the case of rabbits). **Touch their carcasses:** holiness applied even to touching unclean animals.
- **14:9-10. In the water:** Seafood could only be eaten if it had both fins and scales.
- **14:11-20. Bird:** Air animals (including insects) could only be eaten if they had two legs and were air-only animals. Because blood was forbidden, so were birds of prey who eat blood.
- **14:21. Dead:** Because one could not be sure of how a dead animal had died, dead animals were forbidden. **In its mother's milk:** it is not clear why this prohibition is given; perhaps it is a prohibition against cruelty, or perhaps it bans an otherwise unknown pagan practice. Orthodox Jews take it to mean that meat cannot be eaten with any dairy product at the same meal (goodbye _____).
- **14:22-26. Eat the tithe.** The biblical standard for giving to God His due is one tenth of the crops, plus a variety of gifts and sacrifices throughout the year. God gets the first and the best, but we humans get to share in the feast. **At the place:** Israel was to take their sacrifices to the tabernacle (and later the Temple); if it was too far away, they could sell the animals for silver and buy new ones when they arrived at the holy city. **Rejoice:** Giving to God is a joy for those who love Him.
- **14:27-29. Levites, foreigners, the fatherless and the widows:** Every three years, the tithe was to be given to Levites (who owned no land) as well as to the needy. God's holiness includes compassion.



Various weights from ancient Israel used to measure out silver and other metals. Coins were not invented until centuries after the life of Moses (Bible Museum, Washington, dmy)

Be holy in all you do

Because God is holy, we are to be holy in all we do (1 Peter 1:15). Without holiness, we cannot see God (Hebrews 12:14). How you can be holy in these seven areas of life?

1. God and _____ (*God-loving; prayerful; committed to church; trusting; faithful*)
2. Body and mind (*disciplined; virtuous; not indulgent; sexually pure; addiction-free*)
3. Spouse and family (*wife-loving, husband-respecting; faithful; submissive; unselfish*)
4. _____ and work (*hard working; not lazy; content; modest living; generous*)
5. Friends and neighbors (*disciple maker; justice and mercy; pro-life; racial reconciler*)
6. Society and culture (*not a compromiser; puts God's kingdom first*)
7. Leisure and entertainment (*only clean movies; modest in hobbies; practice rest*)

What's going on with Kosher Laws?

- Israel is to be holy even in its meals. Kosher eating set apart Israel as the highest expression of humanity.
- Kosher required the Israelites to think about holiness at least 3 times per day. Such discipline is one reason Jews have survived to this day.
- Kosher food represents the idealized animals of each sphere of creation: Land animals must have split hooves *and* chew the cud; aquatic animals must have scales *and* fins, and arial animals must have two legs *and* be air-only animals.
- Since blood is sacred to life, neither blood nor animals of prey who eat blood are kosher.
- Kosher foods tend to be healthier, but this point shouldn't be pushed too far.
- Kosher statutes are turned into kosher precepts by Jesus, who declares all food clean, and teaches us that holiness is a matter of the morals that come out of a person's heart. (Mark 7:1-23)

The Principle of Tithing

- The Bible teaches us that everything we have belongs to God. (Deut. 10:14) We are, therefore, only fund managers of God's accounts.
- God allows us to use His resources, but He expects us to use them for His glory. A God-oriented view of money produces contentment. (Phil. 4:11-12)
- We must *never* love the things of this world. Love of money and love of God are incompatible. (1 John 2:15-17; Matt. 6:24)
- The Israelites were to give 10% of all income to God regularly ("tithe" means "a tenth"). But the sum total of Israel's sacrifices, offerings, and vows amounted to as much as 30% annually for God.
- Tithing is a *universal* standard in the Bible that *precedes* the giving of the law. (Gen. 14:20) Tithing is, therefore, still the standard for God's people, even though not explicitly commanded in the NT.
- The early church set aside their offerings weekly (1 Cor. 16:2), and usually gave far more than a tenth of their wealth to God. (Acts 4:34-35, 2 Cor. 8:3-5)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom. 12:1-2)



Jerusalem from Mt. Olives; the Dome of the Rock stands where the Temple once stood (dmy)

Answers: separate, unite, playing with fire, casseroles, spirituality, Money