

Ezekiel 22:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Analysis

"Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean." Corrupt priests erased distinctions God established, treating sacred and common equally. This profanes God's holiness and misleads people. Pastoral responsibility includes teaching discernment: distinguishing holy from profane, clean from unclean, truth from error. Blurring these categories destroys spiritual health. The Reformed emphasis on God's transcendent holiness requires maintaining proper distinctions, refusing to domesticate the sacred or trivialize the eternal.

Historical Context

Pre-exilic priests (590 BC) compromised Torah standards, accepting syncretism and failing to teach clearly. This pastoral failure contributed to Israel's corruption. Levitical law established clear categories between holy and common, clean and unclean (Leviticus 10:10). These distinctions weren't arbitrary but taught spiritual realities. When priests erased these categories, people lost moral and spiritual bearings. The pattern repeats when church leaders blur biblical distinctions,

accommodating worldly standards rather than teaching God's holiness. Faithful ministry requires maintaining biblical categories.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What biblical distinctions does contemporary Christianity sometimes blur or erase?
2. How does maintaining proper categories between holy and profane shape practical discipleship?

Interlinear Text

בֵּין	קְדָשָׁה	אַתָּה	לֹא	תֹּרְבָּתִי	חַמֵּס	וְ	כִּפְרַנְתָּךְ	יְהִי
Her priests	have violated	my law	and I am profaned	between the holy				H996
H3548	H2554	H8451	H2490				H6944	
בֵּין	קְדָשָׁה	וְ	לֹא	לְחַלֵּל	לֹא	לְאַתָּה	תֹּרְבָּתִי	
between the holy	and profane		H3808	they have put no difference		H914		H996
H6944	H2455							
הַזְּדָם יְהִי								
לֹא	לְתֹהַר	וְ	לֹא	לְפָطִים	אַתָּה	וְ	לֹא	
difference between the unclean	and the clean		H3808	neither have they shewed			H3045	
H2931	H2889							
בְּתוֹכָם:	אַתָּה	לֹא	עִינֵּיכֶם	מִן	פָּעַל	יְמֹנוֹ	וּמְשִׁבְתָּהּוּתֶיךָ	
from my sabbaths	and have hid	their eyes	and I am profaned	among				
H7676	H5956	H5869	H2490	H8432				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 10:10 (Holy): And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

Ezekiel 22:8 (Holy): Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths.

Jeremiah 2:8 (Word): The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

Ezekiel 44:23 (Holy): And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

Malachi 2:8 (Word): But ye are departed out of the way; ye have caused many to stumble at the law; ye have corrupted the covenant of Levi, saith the LORD of hosts.

Ezekiel 36:20 (Holy): And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.

1 Samuel 2:22 (Parallel theme): Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
