

Leviticus 19:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Analysis

Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

This verse falls within the section on **Various Laws of Holiness**. Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18).

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

Historical Context

Wide-ranging ethical and ceremonial laws, including the command to 'love your neighbor as yourself' (19:18). Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness

wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	תְּקַנֵּן	לֹא	תִּתְפֹּר	אַתָּה	בְּנֵי
H3808	Thou shalt not avenge	H3808	nor bear any grudge	H853	against the children
	H5358		H5201		H1121

עַמְּךָ	אַתָּה	כְּמָה	לְךָנֶךָ	אַתָּה:	יְהֹוָה:
of thy people	but thou shalt love	thy neighbour	as thyself	H589	I am the LORD
H5971	H157	H7453	H3644		H3068

Additional Cross-References

Romans 13:9 (Love): For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Galatians 5:14 (Love): For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

James 2:8 (Love): If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

Matthew 19:19 (Love): Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Romans 12:19 (Love): Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Colossians 3:8 (Parallel theme): But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Ephesians 4:31 (Parallel theme): Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Romans 12:17 (Parallel theme): Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Proverbs 20:22 (References Lord): Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

Matthew 19:16 (Parallel theme): And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?