

Leviticus 19:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

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).

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

גֶּרֶם	לְכָם	יְהִי	הַמִּקְםָם	גֶּרֶם	לְכָם	יְהִי	הַמִּקְםָם	גֶּרֶם
with you shall be unto you as one born				H4480	H1961	H0		But the stranger
	H249						H1616	
תְּדַבֵּר	אַתָּךְ	מִ	בְּגַם	אַתָּךְ	מִ	בְּגַם	אַתָּךְ	מִ
that dwelleth	H854			among you and thou shalt love	H157		H0	
	H1481					H3644	H3588	
גֶּרֶם	בְּאַתָּה	מִ	בְּאַתָּה	מִ	בְּאַתָּה	מִ	בְּאַתָּה	מִ
But the stranger	H1961		in the land	H776	of Egypt	H4714	H589	I am the LORD
							H3068	
אֱלֹהִיכֶם								
your God								
	H430							

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:19 (Love): Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Leviticus 19:18 (Love): 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.