

# Leviticus 20:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.

## Analysis

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**Ye shall therefore put difference between clean beasts and unclean, and between unclean fowls and clean: and ye shall not make your souls abominable by beast, or by fowl, or by any manner of living thing that creepeth on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean.**

This verse falls within the section on **Penalties for Disobedience**. Punishments for violations of sexual and religious laws, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in God's holy community.

Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

## Historical Context

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Punishments for violations of sexual and religious laws, emphasizing the seriousness of sin in God's holy community. 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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

## **Related Passages**

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## **Study Questions**

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1. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

## Interlinear Text

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הִבַּדְ לִי	בֵּין	לְטָהֵר	הֵטֵמָא		
Ye shall therefore put difference	H996	beasts	and clean		
H914		H929	H2889		
			and between unclean		
H2931					
וְיִבִּין	וְיָבֹעַ וְיִבִּין	הֵטֵמָא	לְטָהֵר	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין
H996	fowls	and between unclean	and clean	H3808	abominable
	H5775	H2931	H2889		H8262
					H853
וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין
and ye shall not make your souls	beasts	fowls	H3605	H834	
H5315	H929	H5775			
וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין
or by any manner of living thing that creepeth	on the ground	H834			
H7430	H127				
וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין	וְיִבִּין
Ye shall therefore put difference	H0	from you as unclean			
H914		H2930			