

# Leviticus 20:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.

## Analysis

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**And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine.**

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.

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word qadosh (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes.

The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

## 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. Ancient texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

## Interlinear Text

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אַנְתֶּם יִתְהַمֵּם וְהִנֵּה לְךָ וְשָׁמְךָ קָדְשָׁךָ אַנְתֶּם קָדְשָׁם

H1961

H0

**And ye shall be holy**

H3588

**And ye shall be holy**

H589

בְּעֵמָה יְמִינְךָ מִן אֶתְכָּם תַּאֲבֹד לֵיהּ הַ

**unto me for I the LORD and have severed**

H853

**you from other people**

H4480

H5971

לְךָ לְקַיְמָת

H1961

H0

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 20:7** (Holy): Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

**Leviticus 20:24** (References Lord): But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.

**Leviticus 19:2** (Holy): Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

**Titus 2:14** (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**Deuteronomy 7:6** (Holy): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

**Isaiah 6:3** (Holy): And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

**Deuteronomy 14:2** (Holy): For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.

**Revelation 4:8** (Holy): And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

**Revelation 3:7** (Holy): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

**Psalms 99:9** (Holy): Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.