

# Numbers 19:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.

## Analysis

This verse reveals the gravity of remaining ceremonially unclean: 'he hath defiled the tabernacle of the LORD' and 'that soul shall be cut off from Israel.' The defiled person's presence threatened the holy congregation and God's dwelling among them. The phrase 'cut off' (Hebrew 'karat') could mean excommunication or, in severe cases, divine judgment unto death. This underscores that unconfessed, uncleansed sin separates from God's presence and the covenant community. The New Testament parallel is clear: unrepentant sin grieves the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) and disrupts fellowship (1 John 1:6).

## Historical Context

Written during the wilderness period when death was frequent (due to plagues, warfare, and natural causes), this law maintained the camp's holiness. The tabernacle stood at the center of Israel's camp, making ceremonial purity essential for corporate worship. Failure to purify oneself showed contempt for God's holiness and the covenant relationship.

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

---

1. How seriously do you take the need for daily cleansing through confession and repentance?
2. What unconfessed sin might be defiling your personal 'tabernacle' - your body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?

## Interlinear Text

---

כְּלֵבֶן יְמִינֵךְ בְּנֵגֶעַ בְּנֵגֶעַ אֲשֶׁר בְּאֶדְםָה  
H3605 Whosoever toucheth that is dead and that soul of any man H834  
H5060 H4191 H5315 H120

יְמִינֵךְ אֵלָא אַתְּ יְתַחַטֵּא מִשְׁכָּן יְהִי  
that is dead H3808 and purifieth H853 the tabernacle of the LORD H3068  
H4191 H2398 H4908 H3068

כִּי מִשְׁבָּא לְבָבֶה וְבְּפֶשֶׁת וְבְּפֶשֶׁת אֲנִיכֶת הַבְּטַחַת  
not himself defileth shall be cut off and that soul from Israel H3588  
H2930 H3772 H5315 H1931 H3478

צְלִי זָבֵךְ לֹא נִצְתֵּה הַמְּטַבֵּד  
because the water of separation was not sprinkled H5921  
H4325 H5079 H2236

בָּזְבָּד יְהִי הַמְּטַבֵּד עַד טָמֵאת  
upon him he shall be unclean H1961 H5750 his uncleanness H0  
H2931

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Leviticus 15:31** (Temple): Thus shall ye separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness; that they die not in their uncleanness, when they defile my tabernacle that is among them.

**Leviticus 22:3** (References Lord): Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, that soul shall be cut off from my presence: I am the LORD.

**Leviticus 7:20** (References Lord): But the soul that eateth of the flesh of the sacrifice of peace offerings, that pertain unto the LORD, having his uncleanness upon him, even that soul shall be cut off from his people.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)