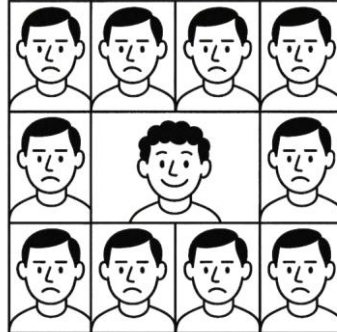


God’s people need to be different to those around them



Then the Lord said to Moses, “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. I am the Lord your God. So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life. You must obey all my regulations and be careful to obey my decrees, for I am the Lord your God. If you obey my decrees and my regulations, you will find life through them. I am the Lord.

~ Leviticus 18:1-5 (NLT) ~

The Lord also said to Moses, “Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

~ Leviticus 19:1-2 (NLT) ~

Most of us don’t like being different from those around us, do we?

Most of the time we just want to fit in and be the same as everyone else.

But in the Bible God tells his people that if they truly want to live as his people, they need to be different from those around them. Not in weird ways or by wearing special cloths, but in the way they live.

The thing is, on our own, most of us want to live a life that doesn’t go God’s way. On our own we all want to just care about ourselves first and foremost, and maybe then we will care about those who are close to us.

But God says that if we are part of his forever family, we need to live his way, and that means living differently to those around us. Instead of just caring about ourselves, God says that if we are part of his people, we need to be different and love God and love others as much as we love ourselves.

Weekly Family Devotion: Leviticus 9: Leviticus 18-19 – God’s people need to be different to those around them

God has a special word for this, holy.

Holy just means perfect, special and different from other things. God says because he is holy, then if we are his people we too need to be holy as well.

This can be a hard thing to do.

It is hard to be different from other people, but the good news is that God doesn’t tell us to try and work it out on our own, he has given us his instructions, the Bible to help us know what it looks like to love God and love others, and he has given us his Holy Spirit who helps us live God’s way.

So if we are God’s people, we are going to live a bit differently from those around us, but God will help us do that, even when that might be a little hard.

Some questions to think about:

1. Do you find it easy or hard to be different from those around you?
2. What does holy mean?
3. Why does say his people should be holy?
4. How does God help his people be holy?
5. How do you feel about this?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that we can be part of your forever family because of Jesus. Thank you that in the Bible you show us how to live as part of your family. Sorry for the times we don’t live holy, different lives. Please help us to listen to you and through the help of the Holy Spirit live holy lives, just like you are holy.

Amen.