



**Sermon Series Standing Out**  
**Purity - Reading Lev 11:39-11:47 (covering 11:1 15:33)**  
**21 April 2024 Small Group Notes**

The early church wrestled with understanding what of the Old Testament applied to gentiles. Why is this important for us to understand? How does it affect how we read the Old Testament? What advice might you give to someone confused about odd laws in the Old Testament? How does a proper understanding open much of the Old Testament to us, or how might a wrong understanding be dangerous?

**Read Leviticus 11:39-47**

What stands out to you in this passage?

**Read Leviticus 11:44-45**

**Read 1 Peter 1:15-16**

Reflecting on the phrase, 'be holy, because I am holy', what stands out to you? What questions or thoughts might come from this?

How is this phrase significant to the book of Leviticus? Why, do you think, is it also restated in Leviticus 19:2, 20:7, and 20:26?

What does it mean to call God holy? How do we define or understand this?

What does it mean for us to be holy as God is holy? If this is not possible, why are we told this?

I worry that morality has never been more self-centred than it is now. The book of Judges shows a downward moral spiral of the Israelites that continually gets worse. The book ends with the indictment that 'everyone did what was right in their own eyes'. What issues do you think this presents? Should we be concerned?

What did it mean for them to think of God as 'set apart'? How might their understanding of holiness been affected by the tabernacle with the holy of holies in their midst?

There is a high value placed in the Bible on following what God says even if it doesn't make sense to us. Why do you think that is? How is that challenging for us today? Is there any wisdom that should be brought to this especially in light of people misunderstanding, or wrongly claiming things as being from God? When should this principle whole-heartedly be followed?

Guidance on clean and unclean make sense to us today, but such guidance on hygiene have only come to make sense in the last few centuries. What would that have been like for them? Can you think of any parallels today to help us understand what they might have felt about it?

**Read Leviticus 11:47**

The phrase 'you must distinguish' invites them to take from what God has said and see the world differently. What might that look like for us?

Paul, in the New Testament, spoke about how the Old Testament law makes us aware of our need for a saviour. How does forgiveness through Christ change the way we see the Old Testament law?