



## Standing Out : A pleasing aroma – Lev 1:1-9 (covering 1-6:7) Small Group Notes – 7 April

Westminster Confession had three categories for laws from the Old Testament that included moral, civic, and ceremonial; with only moral still applying to Christians today. Can you think of any examples of laws from the Old Testament? What applies or doesn't apply to today, and why?

Do you think animal sacrifice is God's idea or cultural appropriation? What issues might there be with either side of understanding animal sacrifice? Can you think of other examples where God works within culture while also challenging that culture?

Leviticus is written from a very different time and place to our own. Can you think of any times that you have been shocked by cultural differences in your own life? What did that look like? How do we see beyond the difference we find in Leviticus?

Why, do you think, it is good to study books like Leviticus? What advice would you give to someone that finds it difficult?

If you were to imagine or contrast their society versus ours, what things come to mind? What was life like for them? What would it have been like to be an Israelite at that time?

What would you say our society is built around? What can we learn from them?

Often we want to make topics like sin and holiness subject to our cultural or personal desires or preferences. How do guard against this happening?

For them sin and holiness were significant matters. The words holy or holiness come up in Leviticus 87 times. Why are these topics rarely spoken of in our day and age?

How does reading Leviticus give extra meaning to the idea of our hearts (collectively) being a tabernacle of the Holy Spirit?

### **Read Leviticus 1:1-3**

Why offer a 'male without defect'?

Offering a young bull was followed by the option of a lamb or dove due to people's different financial circumstances. Why did they have a value on worship being costly?

### **Read Leviticus 1:4**

Why did they start by laying their hand on the head of the animal? What might this have meant to them?

With the idea of connecting with the source of our atonement, what might that look like for us today?

### **Read Leviticus 1:5-9**

What of this detail would you find difficult? Why is this the process they would go through?

When a phrase is repeated in scripture it is often significant. Many times (four in our passage) we get the phrase 'to the LORD', or 'before the LORD'. What does this mean?

Our passage ends with 'an aroma pleasing to the LORD'. This comes up 11 times just in Leviticus chapters 1-6 when looking at animal sacrifice. What meaning do you see in this phrase?

Although application from a book like Leviticus can take some extra thought, what things stand out to from our passage for today?

How does the sacrificial system add meaning to our understanding of what Jesus did for us?

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