

Week 14: Clean and Unclean - God's Standards for His People

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Scripture Reading: Leviticus 11:1–47; Isaiah 66:15–17; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 (KJV)

With Commentary Throughout

Leviticus 11:1–2

1 “And the LORD spake unto Moses and to Aaron, saying unto them,”

2 “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth.”

Commentary:

God gave clear instructions to His people about what animals they were permitted to eat. These laws were not arbitrary, nor were they merely symbolic. The Creator of the body knows what is good for the body. Though the ceremonial system has passed, the distinction between clean and unclean meats remains, as it is rooted in creation order and reinforced throughout Scripture.

Leviticus 11:44–45

44 “For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

45 “For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”

Commentary:

God links dietary obedience with holiness. The food laws are not just about health; they are about identity, obedience, and separation. The call to be holy as God is holy extends to every

aspect of life, including the table. Choosing clean food is an act of sanctification, showing that we belong to a holy God.

Isaiah 66:15–17

15 *“For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.”*

16 *“For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.”*

17 *“They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.”*

Commentary:

This prophecy speaks of the final judgment, where eating unclean animals is still considered rebellion. God did not reverse His dietary laws; He warns that defiance of His standards, even in diet, brings consequences. This passage clearly shows that the unclean distinction persists into the end times.

2 Corinthians 6:17–18

17 *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”*

18 *“And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”*

Commentary:

Paul affirms the principle of separation from what is unclean, not in a merely ceremonial sense, but in a way that reflects God’s call to moral and spiritual purity. This includes lifestyle, worship, relationships, and yes, dietary practices. Obedience in small things shapes holiness in all things.

 **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

Young Children:

- What kinds of animals did God say we can eat?

- Why does God want us to be different from the world?
- What happens when we obey God even with our food?

Older Children & Teens:

- How does eating clean animals help us remember that we belong to God?
- Why does God still care about what we eat today?
- What should we do if others say “God doesn’t care about that anymore”?

Adults:

- How can we uphold God’s dietary standards without legalism?
 - What are some practical ways to teach our children to eat biblically?
 - How does separating from unclean foods shape our identity as set-apart people?
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Psalm Reading

Psalm 119:1–3 (KJV)

1 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.”

2 “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.”

3 “They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.”

Commentary:

Walking in God’s ways brings blessing. His testimonies include moral law, family order, worship practices, and His instructions about food. The one who seeks to obey God in every area will be blessed and undefiled.

Hymn: “Take Time to Be Holy”

By William D. Longstaff (1882)

1.

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

2.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

3.

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide,
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow thy Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

4.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.



Family Application Points

1. Teach God's Dietary Boundaries:

Help your children learn which animals are clean (e.g., those that chew the cud and have split hooves; fish with fins and scales). Reinforce that God sets the standards—not man.

2. Purge the Unclean from Your Home:

Examine food labels, restaurants, and freezers. Remove pork, shellfish, and other unclean items from your family diet as an act of repentance and obedience.

3. Celebrate Obedience Together:

Turn the decision to eat clean into a joyful expression of holiness. Use it as a teaching moment to explain why your family chooses to live according to God's Word.

4. Be Ready to Give an Answer:

Equip your household with Scripture (Leviticus 11, Isaiah 66, 2 Corinthians 6) so that

when questioned, you can boldly declare: “We obey because He is holy.”

5. Emphasize Wholeness, Not Legalism:

Obedience is not about earning salvation but honoring the God who saved us. Teach your family that obedience flows from love, not from fear or ritualism.

A Sabbath Feast Prayer: (Used later when the Sabbath Meal is Ready)

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Sabbath - a holy day of rest, joy, and renewal. As we partake in this meal, may our hearts be lifted in gratitude for Your provision and peace. Let this table reflect the peace of Your Kingdom and the love that binds our household together in Christ. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are holy and You have called us to be holy in all our ways, even in what we eat. Forgive us for any area where we have ignored Your clear instructions. Help us to love Your law, to embrace Your standards, and to walk in daily obedience. May our family honor You at the table, in the kitchen, and in every corner of our lives. Teach us to choose what is clean, to reject what defiles, and to glorify You in body and spirit. In the name of Jesus our Savior, we pray. Amen.