

Free to Serve

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Leviticus 21-22.
- B. Everyone born into the family of God is a priest by merit of being a son of the High Priest.
- C. We are all priests, but we cannot all serve as priests.
- D. There are qualifications for service.

II. The priests offer the sacrifices of God.

- A. To offer the offering is to deal with the effects of the blood of Jesus.
- B. The sacrifice of Jesus cuts off the problem of sin in the human life.
- C. Someone dealing with sin must be delivered to the healing hand of Jesus.

III. Priests were to feed upon the sacrifice.

- A. This symbolizes feeding upon God.
- B. The Lord's table shows this.

IV. Priests were to be holy.

- A. Holiness means to be whole—to be healed.
- B. In order to help others, we must be healed.
- C. The qualifications.
 - 1. No dead body could be touched.
 - a. This symbolizes the life of the flesh that cannot please God. (Romans 8)
 - b. What is wrong with the world is the emphasis on the outward—you will not be effective if defilement is there.
 - 2. No one could marry a person defiled.
 - a. One cannot be attached to worldly attitudes.
 - b. You cannot have an effective ministry by simply borrowing the world's methods.

V. The high priest.

- A. He cannot have any identification with the sinful flesh, as Jesus was not associated.
- B. His marriage is unblemished as was Christ's relationship with the church. (Ephesians 5)
- C. God will never rest until we learn to depend upon Him.

VI. Other blemishes that must be cleansed.

- A. Hereditary blemishes—growth issues do not cast us out from God's family but hinder us from ministering.
- B. These things can be cleansed though.
- C. No one not born of God can minister—his work will be shown to be false.
- D. There is to be no blemish in the offering—our understanding of the sacrifice of Jesus must be understood rightly.

Application questions:

1. What is the difference between the qualifications of not touching the dead and not marrying a defiled person as it relates to the believer today?

2. Why is it important that hereditary blemishes be cleansed for effective ministry?

3. What blemishes do you need to be cleansed of in order to engage in effective ministry? How can you see these blemishes as harming others in your sphere? Explain.
