

Dealing with the Leprosy of Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 12-13.

B. This section has to do with diseases and what to do about them.

C. If the principles were followed, many plagues could have been avoided.

II. The disease in Leviticus is symbolic of the afflictions of the soul.

A. Every person born into this world is born into the basic problems of human relationship.

1. God tells this to the people of God—it is easy to forget that even believers have this.
2. We cannot ignore that this is part of human nature.
3. A death must intervene for atonement.

B. The flesh is not removed by regeneration for the Christian, so he needs help dealing with it.

1. There are temperamental attitudes that may just be different but not wrong.
2. However, some temperamental attitudes are wrong and destructive—anger, pride, love of self, etc.
3. It is important to be able to detect which attitudes are right and wrong.

C. The process of detection was long and careful inspection.

1. We are not to make impulsive decisions regarding whether someone has “leprosy.”
2. Symptoms.
 - a. Signs of immanent and approaching “death.”
 - b. Characteristic sins that are more than a passing moment.
 - c. Flesh that is plain and easily recognized.

3. If we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive us. (I John 1:9)

D. Kinds of examinations that needed to be made.

1. Boils—attitudes that eventually blow up in a crisis.
2. Burns—injuries caused by circumstances outside of us.

3. Itches—things that bother us.

4. Scabs.

E. The results of not allowing one's "leprosy" to be judged.

1. Torn clothes represent behavior that has no sense or unity.

2. Loose hair represents beauty disarrayed—an impatient or negative attitude.

3. Dwelling alone represents the result of leprosy uncovered.

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to approach sin in a believer's life with tact? What process does the speaker recommend?

2. What are the symptoms of "spiritual leprosy" and how do these relate to the kinds of "examinations?"

3. Do you find yourself engaged in sins that are becoming a spiritual disease? What should your response be in light of the message?
