CENTERPIECE

The Chiastic Structure of Leviticus 19-26

A Holiness in Daily Life (19)
~~Idols~~ (19:4)
Crops (19:9-10; 19:18; 23-25)
Sabbath & Sanctuary (19:30)
→Slaves, aliens, poor, disadvantaged (19:10-34)

B Death Penalty for Violations (20)
cursing parents, adultery, incest, etc.
any Israelite or alien

C Priestly Holiness (21-22)
eating holy sacrifices

D Calendar: 7 Holy Times (23)

C' Priests tending lamps (24:1-9)
eating holy bread

B' Death Penalty for Violations (24:10-23)
blasphemy, murder
same law for alien as for native

A' Holiness in Daily Life (25:1-26:2)
Crops (25:3-22)
→ Slaves, aliens, poor, disadvantaged (25:6-55)
~~Idols~~ (26:1)
Sabbath & Sanctuary (26:2)
Covenantal blessings & curses (26:3-46)

Adapted from D. Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*, 2004.

Endtime Parables · Matthew 25

Virgins:	**Watch**	👀⏳👰🏽	50%
Talents:	**Work**	💪🏽🪨🪏	30%
Sheep/Goats:	**Welfare**	🥖🥛👕	50%

The Good Samaritan · Luke 10:25-37

- A test (again) - context: eternal life!
- "As he journeyed" . . . (v33)
- "And when he saw him, he had compassion" (v33)
- "Whatever more" (v35) ↔ Boundaries?!

"The greatest of these is love" (1 Cor 13) 🎁

POWER ⚡ LINES

"Through Moses the Lord had said, "Thou shalt not hate ... love thy neighbor as thyself." The truths which Christ presented were the same that had been taught by the prophets, but they had become obscured through **hardness of heart** and **love of sin**" (MB 55).

"Gospel religion is Christ in the life - a living, active principle. It is the grace of Christ revealed in character and wrought out in good works. The principles of the gospel cannot be disconnected from any department of practical life. Every line of Christian experience and labor is to be a representation of the life of Christ. Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother" (COL 384).

"The lesson is no less needed in the world today than when it fell from the lips of Jesus. **Selfishness** and **cold formality** have well-nigh extinguished the fire of love, and dispelled the graces that should make fragrant the character. . . . Unless there is practical **self-sacrifice for the good of others**, in the family circle, in the neighborhood, in the church, and wherever we may be, then whatever our profession, **we are not Christians**" (DA 504).

"Those who love God cannot harbor hatred or envy. When the heavenly principle of eternal love fills the heart, it will flow out to others, not merely because favors are received of them, but because love is the principle of action and modifies the character, governs the impulses, controls the passions, subdues enmity, and elevates and ennobles the affections. This love is not contracted so as merely to include "me and mine," but is as broad as the world and as high as heaven, and is in harmony with that of the angel workers. This love cherished in the soul sweetens the entire life and sheds a refining influence on all around. Possessing it, we cannot but be happy, let fortune smile or frown. **If we love God with all the heart, we must love His children also.** This love is the spirit of God. It is the heavenly adorning that gives true nobility and dignity to the soul and assimilates our lives to that of the Master. No matter how many good qualities we may have, however honorable and refined we may consider ourselves, if the soul is not baptized with the heavenly grace of love to God and one another, we are deficient in true goodness and **unfit for heaven**, where all is love and unity" (4T 223.2).

How much do you love? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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English

L O V E
YOUR NEIGHBOR

Principles · Practice

Ingo Sorke, PhD

NEIGHBORHOOD

Leviticus 19:34 "The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God." 👨🏾 👩🏻

Matthew 5:43-48 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."**

Matthew 6:12: "Forgive us as we forgive them!" (Grammar: only indicative = sole human-based reality in Lord's Prayer!) Mt 18:21-23 → Dan 9:24-27: 70x7=490! → Forgive your neighbor like God forgives His people!

Matthew 7:11-12 "You, being evil . . . Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." 🔄

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." 💞

Ephesians 5:28-29 "So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church." 👨🏻 👩🏽

1 John 4 7 "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.** 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." 20 "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also."

Do you love like that?!

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!"

Jesus tested: direct response; no parable, no counter question, no story:

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets"" (Mt 22:37-39).

CONTEXT

Lev 16: Day of Atonement
Lev 18:30 "The LORD spoke to Moses"
Lev 19:2 "'Be holy, for I the LORD your God *am* holy."
Lev 19:16 "You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: **I am the LORD.**
17 You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. **18** You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."**
34 → strangers!
Lev 20:1 "The LORD spoke to Moses"

PROCESS

Private
Personal
Public

7 Actions

- 🚫 **gossip**
- 🚫 **failure to render aid**
- 🚫 **hate**
- ✅ **resolution**
- 🚫 **vengeance**
- 🚫 **grudge**
- ✅ **love**

Internal
External

OBSERVATIONS

וְאָהַבְתָּ לְרֵעֲךָ כָּמוֹךָ אֲנִי יְהוָה׃

- **Point of Reference: God**
- **Innocent party** addressed in detail!

being right → being righteous

- **Assumption:** Neighbor's Guilt!
- **Approach:** Attitude & Action
- **Actual Command:** only 3 words!
- **Absolute Prohibition**
  Hebrew: lō᾽ + Qal Imperfect: ~~incidental~~
  normally אהב + direct object; here + ל
  (→ Lev 19:34; 2 Chron 19:2)
- **Acceptance:** "As yourself"
- **Alert:** Rebuke, or risk of reciprocity
- **Apex: "I am the LORD"**

vertical relationship → horizontal reconciliation

Negative Action

Positive Reaction!