SBC Combined Chapel Dr Rick Griffith

Title

5 March 2020 Single Message

NLT 30 Minutes

**Five Offerings We Give**

***Leviticus 1:1–6:7***

**Topic:** Holiness

**Subject:** How can you maintain your fellowship with your holy God?

**Complement:** Worship God and confess your sin.

**Purpose:** The listeners will draw near to God in worship and confession of sin.

**Attribute:** We worship our Holy God

**Songs:** Holy, Holy, Holy; Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God; We Bring a Sacrifice of Praise

**Benediction:** Purify My Heart

# Introduction

Always Act Like It?

### Interest: Do Christians always act like Christians? Tell your answer to this question to the person next to you (pause 20 seconds). Even leaders like us cleansed of our sins sometimes get out of fellowship with the Lord. So what should we do?

Man Sitting

NT Forgive

#### Our relationship with God can be compared to a pipe.

• Pipe

#### Occasionally the pipe gets a clog—like sin—that hinders our fellowship with God.

• Sin

#### Do we still have a relationship with God when we sin? Yes!

#### Sin does not hinder our relationship with God but our fellowship with Him.

• Other?

• Prayer

• Bible

• Promise

Sustain

• Clog

### Need: So how do *you* personally sustain your walk with God?

#### Some people make promises to God that they will go wherever he wants them to go.

#### Others vow that they will never miss a day of Bible reading the rest of their life.

#### Still others promise daily prayer.

#### How do you sustain your walk with God? What *should* you do?

### Subject: How can you maintain fellowship with your holy God?

Subject

Animals

#### We can gain insight today from studying the offerings in the OT book of Leviticus.

#### How? OT sacrifices did not establish a *relationship* with God but rather they restored *fellowship* with God for Israelites.

### Background: Israel already had a *relationship* with God—the new nation just needed to know how to sustain their *fellowship* with God.

Backgrd

#### A year earlier, each Israelite had been saved from death by faith in an innocent lamb. They shed the Passover lamb’s blood and put it on their doorposts. Then God miraculously parted the Sea and led his people out of Egypt—a picture of salvation for the believers since each of those redeemed had been saved from death by the Passover lamb’s blood. In other words, they had a personal *relationship* with God.

Lamb

Doorposts

Map

#### Israel invited God’s presence at Mt. Sinai and God was pleased to dwell with them (Exodus 39:34). Despite God’s awesome holiness at Sinai, they had come into a relationship with God though the Passover lamb at the Exodus.

Sinai Burning

#### Now, a year later, the Israelites had just finished building the tabernacle. They had agreed to follow God’s laws and saw him inhabit the tabernacle just completed.

Tabernacle Inhabited

#### Now they stand there at the tabernacle wondering how long this will last. How could they experience God’s blessing, guidance and reality continually?

• Know

Circum-stances

• 3

• 2

• 1

Courtyard

Perfect

Various Animals

Bull

Lev 1

(2 slides)

#### The tabernacle was finished but now they needed to know what to do with it! So Moses wrote Leviticus to explain the worship and walk of the new nation.

• Wrote

### Preview: Today we’ll see *two ways* to maintain fellowship with your holy God.

• Two Ways

Subject

### Text: Leviticus 1:1–6:7 will share these two ways to sustain a relationship with the Lord already begun.

• Lev 1-6

(So what is the first way to maintain fellowship with your holy God?)

MI

# I. Do what is not required—extra acts of worship.

[Do things that are voluntary to honour the Lord—especially when life is so busy that we don’t do anything optional.]

## Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence by three sacrifices for consecration when in fellowship (Lev 1–3).

Diagram

### The burnt offering was a voluntary sacrifice that totally consumed the animal to draw near to God in total dedication (Lev 1).

#### The burnt offering begins with instructions to offer a bull. Wow, what an expensive gift to God! This would be several months or even a year or more wages for people!

#### But notice that God allowed various types of animals for the same offering.

#### “1:2. This verse forms a transition to the law of the burnt offering by referring to an offering (NA;b√r∂q, “that which is brought” to God—a general term covering all sacrifice) from either the herd (i.e., a bull, vv. 3-9) or the flock (i.e., a sheep or goat, vv. 10-13). With the addition of birds (vv. 14-17), this provides the formal outline of the law of burnt offering (see also 6:8-13), the animals of the offering being listed in a descending order of value” (Duane Lindsey, “Leviticus,” BKC).

#### God allowed expensive offerings (bulls) for the wealthy, moderate animals for the middle class (lambs, goats), and the poor could offer as simple an animal as a bird. Likewise, he instituted the tithe because he made sure that even the poorest person could live on 90% of his income.

#### But one thing that characterized all of these offerings is that they must be perfect animals without defect—just like our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### The process was also clearly given (cf. R. T. Beckwith, *New Bible Dictionary*, 1962):

##### The worshipper presents his offering

##### He lays his hand(s) upon the victim, and possibly confesses his sin.

##### The worshipper slaughters the offering.

##### The priest collects the blood in a basin and dashes it against the NE and SW corners of the altar in such a way that all four sides are spattered. The remainder of the blood is then poured out at the base of the altar.

4

5

##### A portion of the sacrifice is burned (but for a burnt offering, the ENTIRE sacrifice was burned).

##### Any remaining portions of the sacrifice were eaten in a sacrificial meal, either by the priests and worshippers (fellowship-offering), or by the priests and their families, or by the priests alone.

5 Offerings

English

Diagram

MPI

Chinese Chart

English Chart

Body Life

Grain = Thanks

Rom 12

(6 slides)

Express Love

Family Eating

Lev 3

Chinese Chart

English Chart

Bread

Handful

Grain

Lev 2

6

### The grain (meal) offering was a voluntary, auxiliary, bloodless offering to show thanks to God for his provisional care (Lev 2).

#### The staple of our diet comes from grain.

#### When God provided grain, Israelites could offer some back to God to say thank you.

#### Sometimes grain could be in the form of baked loaves.

#### The grain offering was a voluntary act of worship in recognition of God's goodness and provisions. It symbolized our devotion to God in response to his goodness to us.

### The fellowship (peace) offering was a voluntary family meal to worship God (Lev 3; cf. 7:12-16).

#### “The *distinctiveness* of the fellowship offering was in the communal meal which the worshiper and his family ate before the Lord (cf. 7:15). It was essentially a voluntary act in which the worshiper accepted the meat from God as a token of His covenant faithfulness and gave God acknowledgment or thankful praise for His past blessings bestowed, whether in answer to prayer, or granted unexpectedly, or the normal blessings [1:180] such as a good harvest” (Lindsey, *BKC*, 1:179-80).

#### Why are these offerings called “an aroma pleasing to the LORD” (Lev. 1:9, 17; 2:2, 9, 12; 3:5, 16; 4:31)? Simply put, God likes BBQ!

• BBQ

Aroma

#### More seriously, the Lord is pleased to see his people follow his ways. All obedience is like a sweet fragrance to God—especially sacrifices that express our love for him or restore our fellowship with him.

## We also should express our love to God in ways he does not specifically command.

### Offering our bodies continually is our counterpart to the whole burnt offering (Rom 12:1)—but staying alive on the altar is challenging.

### Thanking God for our food parallels the grain offering.

### Community worship is also a fantastic privilege! Don’t look at church as a burden but as a blessing. That’s why the fellowship offering is also called the peace offering. “The *typology* of the fellowship offering pictures the fellowship that the New Testament believer has with God and with other believers on the basis of Christ’s death on the cross (1 John 1:3). This is one phase of Christ’s ‘making peace through His blood, shed on the cross’ (Col. 1:20). In fact, ‘He Himself is our peace’ (Eph. 2:14)” (Lindsey, *BKC*, 1:180). Peace and fellowship were experienced in a group meal.

(So the first group of three offerings tell us to do what is *not* required—extra acts of worship. But now we will see another group, so what is the difference between this group of sacrifices? Why have two different groups of offerings? *The first three simply expressed thanks and worship of God but now the last two enabled worshippers to confess their sin in a very tangible way.* So what is the second way to maintain fellowship with your holy God? These last two offerings teach us to…)

5 Offerings

Chinese

# II. Do what is required—confession of sin.

MPII

[Do things that are compulsory to restore our walk the Lord.]

## Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence by sacrifices for cleansing when out of fellowship (4:1–6:7).

Diagram

### The sin offering was an obligatory sacrifice to atone (i.e., appease God's wrath) for unintentional sins (4:1–5:13).

Lev 4

#### Did these sacrifices forgive sin in the sense that they established a relationship with God?

What practice?

Turtle

Lord’s Supper

Heb 9:22

• 2 Ways

Subject

Altar

• 1 Jn 1:9

NT Forgive

OT   
Forgive

Social Status

• +20%

Lev 5

God Forgave

Sacrifices Forgave

Blood

Why Sacrifices?

#### No, for Israel was already a saved community.

#### They only needed to know how to maintain their fellowship with a holy God

#### Jews restored their fellowship with the Lord through sin and guilt sacrifices.

### The guilt (trespass) offering was an obligatory sacrifice to make restitution for withholding proper due from God or man (5:14–6:7).

#### It required an additional 20% restitution for doing wrong to someone else.

#### God made covering one’s guilt possible no matter his social status!

#### Confessing sin restored fellowship but the relationship was never threatened.

## Give priority to take time to agree with God about your own sin.

### The word “confess” (*homologeo*) means to “say the same” as God does about your sin.

### Imagine every sin costing you a month’s pay—would you sin less?

(How can you maintain fellowship with your holy God? How can we sum up all the chapters together?)

# Conclusion

### Worship God and confess your sin (Main Idea). Reverence Him and agree when you fail.

MI

### Main Points: How can you maintain fellowship with your holy God?

MPI

#### Do what is not required—extra acts of worship.

MPII

#### Do what is required—confession.

### Exhortation: Christ made the way for us.

#### Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

#### We celebrate forgiveness at the Lord’s Supper.

#### Admit, like a turtle on a fencepost, “I didn’t get here by myself.”

### Application: What issue do you need to address with God now?

#### Telling the Lord that you love him?

#### Neglecting community?

#### Resisting his promptings?

Prayer

### Prayer

Closing:

Dear friends, we acknowledge to one another how hard it is to be the people of God. God has called us to be his holy nation to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we are more apathetic than active.

We acknowledge that we are more isolated than involved,

Callous than compassionate

Obstinate than obedient

Legalistic than loving.

Let us sing this song as a prayer and ask that God remove the obstacles that prevent us from being representatives to a broken world.

**PURIFY MY HEART** (E major)

Brian Doerksen

Demo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qTj_B2H1nE>

**Purify my heart,**

**Let me be as gold and precious silver.**

**Purify my heart,**

**Let me be as gold, pure gold.**

(Sing both English and Chinese)

**Refiner's fire,**

**My heart's one desire**

**Is to be... holy;**

**Set apart for You, Lord.**

**I choose to be... holy;**

**Set apart for You, my Master,**

**Ready to do Your will.**

(Interlude)

(Sing both English and Chinese)

**Refiner's fire,**

**My heart's one desire**

**Is to be... holy;**

**Set apart for You, Lord.**

**I choose to be... holy;**

**Set apart for You, my Master,**

**Ready to do Your will.**

**Refiner's fire,**

**My heart's one desire**

**Is to be... holy;**

**Set apart for You, Lord.**

**I choose to be... holy;**

**Set apart for You, my Master,**

**Ready to do Your will.**

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### A year earlier, God miraculously parted the Sea and led his people out of Egypt—a picture of salvation for the believers since each of those redeemed had been saved from death by the Passover lamb’s blood. In other words, they had a personal *relationship* with God.

### Now, a year later, the Israelites had just finished building the tabernacle. Now they needed to know what to do with it!

### “Thus the handbook of sacrifice follows the historical narrative concerning the construction of the tabernacle (Ex. 25-40) and precedes the next historical narrative of the ordination of the priesthood (Lev. 8-10)” (Duane F. Lindsey, “Leviticus,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:173; hereafter BKC).

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Reason #1 is to provide a way for godly Israelites to properly express their worship to God.

### Reason #2 is to provide a way for godly Israelites to properly confess their sins and thus restore their *fellowship* with God.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Sacrifice was a common practice of the Ancient Near East. All the nations offered animals on their altars.

### What was different about Israel’s sacrifices is that they did not simply appease their God but actually led to forgiveness for their sin.

# Questions

### Did these sacrifices forgive sin in the sense that they established a relationship with God? *No, for Israel was already a saved community. They only needed to know how to maintain their fellowship with a holy God.*

### What is the difference between the various sacrifices? Why have five different types of offerings? *The first three simply expressed thanks and worship of God while the last two enabled worshippers to confess their sin in a very tangible way.*

### Why are these offerings called “an aroma pleasing to the LORD” (Lev. 1:9, 17; 2:2, 9, 12; 3:5, 16; 4:31)? *Simply put, God likes BBQ. More seriously, the Lord is pleased to see his people follow his ways. All obedience is like a sweet fragrance to God—especially sacrifices that express our love for him or restore our fellowship with him.*

### Why did God allow various types of animals for the same offering?

#### “1:2. This verse forms a transition to the law of the burnt offering by referring to an offering (NA;b√r∂q, “that which is brought” to God—a general term covering all sacrifice) from either the herd (i.e., a bull, vv. 3-9) or the flock (i.e., a sheep or goat, vv. 10-13). With the addition of birds (vv. 14-17), this provides the formal outline of the law of burnt offering (see also 6:8-13), the animals of the offering being listed in a descending order of value” (BKC).

#### God allowed expensive offerings (bulls) for the wealthy, moderate animals for the middle class (lambs, goats), and the poor could offer as simple an animal as a bird. Likewise, he instituted the tithe because he made sure that even the poorest person could live on 90% of his income.

### Why did God require the entire sin sacrifice burned?

#### “The valuable hide and the meat of the bull were burnt outside the camp, along with the worthless portions of the bull. It could not be offered to God, but it was burned as if it were a worthless thing…All selfish motives had to be removed in the sin offering. If a priest brought the offering, the whole offering had to be destroyed. If a non-priest brought the offering, the priest could eat of it, but not the one bringing the sacrifice. You couldn’t bring a sin offering because you wanted meat or leather, but only because you wanted to get right with God. This emphasized the idea that there is no benefit to our sin.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

# Tentative Main Ideas

The way to maintain fellowship with our holy God is by worship and confession.

# Illustrations That Apply

### Text

# Old Testament Survey Notes

**The way Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence was by obeying God’s laws of sanctification through sacrifice (Lev 1–10).**

## Sacrifices to worship God and obtain temporal cleansing kept God's presence with the nation (Lev 1–7).

### General sacrificial information shows the people how to offer sacrifices when both in and out of fellowship with God (1:1–6:7).

#### Sacrifices for consecration show Israel how to worship God when in fellowship (Lev 1–3).

##### The burnt offering is a voluntary sacrifice that totally consumed the animal to draw near to God in total dedication (Lev 1).

##### The grain (meal) offering is a voluntary, auxiliary, bloodless offering to show thanks to God for his provisional care (Lev 2).

##### The fellowship (peace) offering is a voluntary family meal to worship God (Lev 3; cf. 7:12-16).

#### Sacrifices for cleansing show how to approach God when out of fellowship (4:1–6:7).

##### The sin offering is an obligatory sacrifice to atone (i.e., appease God's wrath) for unintentional sins (4:1–5:13).

##### The guilt (trespass) offering is an obligatory sacrifice to make restitution for withholding proper due from God or man (5:14–6:7).

### Specific sacrificial information gives the priests administrative details how to offer the preceding offerings by showing which persons, places, and portions God accepted (6:8–7:38).

## The establishing of the priesthood shows how God's presence might remain with the nation (Lev 8–10).

### Aaron and his sons are ordained as representatives of God for the people (Lev 8).

### Sacrifices begin to show God’s blessing on the priests and institution (Lev 9).

### Nadab and Abihu die to show the severe results of abusing God’s sacrifices (Lev 10).

**Five Offerings We Give**

***Leviticus 1:1–6:7***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence was by sacrifices to worship God and obtain temporal cleansing (Lev 1–7).

# The way Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence was by sacrifices for consecration when in fellowship (Lev 1–3).

## The burnt offering was a voluntary sacrifice that totally consumed the animal to draw near to God in total dedication (Lev 1).

## The grain (meal) offering was a voluntary, auxiliary, bloodless offering to show thanks to God for his provisional care (Lev 2).

## The fellowship (peace) offering was a voluntary family meal to worship God (Lev 3; cf. 7:12-16).

# The way Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence was by sacrifices for cleansing when out of fellowship (4:1–6:7).

## The sin offering was an obligatory sacrifice to atone (i.e., appease God's wrath) for unintentional sins (4:1–5:13).

## The guilt (trespass) offering was an obligatory sacrifice to make restitution for withholding proper due from God or man (5:14–6:7).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will draw near to God in worship and confession of sin.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Even believers like us leaders cleansed of our sins sometimes get out of fellowship with the Lord. So what should we do?

### Need: So how do *you* personally sustain your walk with God?

### Subject: How can you maintain fellowship with your holy God?

### Background: Israel already had a *relationship* with God—the new nation just needed to know how to sustain their *fellowship* with God.

### Preview: Today we’ll see *two ways* to maintain fellowship with your holy God.

### Text: Leviticus 1:1–6:7 will share these two ways to sustain a relationship with the Lord already begun.

(So what is the first way to maintain fellowship with your holy God?)

# I. Do what is not required—extra acts of worship.

## Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence by three sacrifices for consecration when in fellowship (Lev 1–3).

### The burnt offering was a voluntary sacrifice that totally consumed the animal to draw near to God in total dedication (Lev 1).

### The grain (meal) offering was a voluntary, auxiliary, bloodless offering to show thanks to God for his provisional care (Lev 2).

### The fellowship (peace) offering was a voluntary family meal to worship God (Lev 3; cf. 7:12-16).

## We also should express our love to God in ways he does not specifically command.

### Offering our bodies continually is our counterpart to the whole burnt offering (Rom 12:1)—but staying alive on the altar is challenging.

### Thanking God for our food parallels the grain offering.

### Community worship is also a fantastic privilege! Don’t look at church as a burden but as a blessing.

(So what is the second way to maintain fellowship with your holy God?)

# II. Do what is required—confession of sin.

## Israel could continue to enjoy God’s presence by sacrifices for cleansing when out of fellowship (4:1–6:7).

### The sin offering was an obligatory sacrifice to atone (i.e., appease God's wrath) for unintentional sins (4:1–5:13).

### The guilt (trespass) offering was an obligatory sacrifice to make restitution for withholding proper due from God or man (5:14–6:7).

## Give priority to take time to agree with God about your own sin.

### The word for “confess” (*homologeo*) means to “say the same” as God does about your sin.

### Don’t neglect the Lord’s supper.

### Imagine every sin costing you a month’s pay—would you sin less?

(How can you maintain fellowship with your holy God? How can we sum up this question from all the chapters together?)

# Conclusion

### Worship God and confess your sin (Main Idea).

### Main Points: How can you maintain fellowship with your holy God?

#### Do what is not required—extra acts of worship.

#### Do what is required—confession.

### Exhortation: What issue do you need to address with God now?

#### Telling the Lord that you love him

#### Neglecting community

#### Resisting his promptings

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

5 March 2020

**Five Offerings We Give**

***Leviticus 1:1–6:7***

# Introduction

Subject with a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ blank answer in hidden text

# I. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

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## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# II. MP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

## SP has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

# Conclusion

### Main Idea has a blank for the key word \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ answer (verses).

### Application question

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/old-testament-preaching/

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BOOK CHART

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)