

Leviticus 15 (Holy in Christ)

Lev 15:1 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron,

Lev 15:2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When any man has an unusual bodily discharge, such a discharge is unclean.

Lev 15:3 Whether it continues flowing from his body or is blocked, it will make him unclean. This is how his discharge will bring about uncleanness:

Lev 15:4 "'Any bed the man with a discharge lies on will be unclean, and anything he sits on will be unclean.

Lev 15:5 Anyone who touches his bed must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:6 Whoever sits on anything that the man with a discharge sat on must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:7 "'Whoever touches the man who has a discharge must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:8 "'If the man with the discharge spits on anyone who is clean, they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:9 "'Everything the man sits on when riding will be unclean,

Lev 15:10 and whoever touches any of the things that were under him will be unclean till evening; whoever picks up those things must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:11 "'Anyone the man with a discharge touches without rinsing his hands with water must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:12 "'A clay pot that the man touches must be broken, and any wooden article is to be rinsed with water.

Lev 15:13 "'When a man is cleansed from his discharge, he is to count off seven days for his ceremonial cleansing; he must wash his clothes and bathe himself with fresh water, and he will be clean.

Lev 15:14 On the eighth day he must take two doves or two young pigeons and come before the LORD to the entrance to the tent of meeting and give them to the priest.

Lev 15:15 The priest is to sacrifice them, the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. In this way he will make atonement before the LORD for the man because of his discharge.

Lev 15:16 "'When a man has an emission of semen, he must bathe his whole body with water, and he will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:17 Any clothing or leather that has semen on it must be washed with water, and it will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:18 When a man has sexual relations with a woman and there is an emission of semen, both of them must bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:19 ""When a woman has her regular flow of blood, the impurity of her monthly period will last seven days, and anyone who touches her will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:20 ""Anything she lies on during her period will be unclean, and anything she sits on will be unclean.

Lev 15:21 Anyone who touches her bed will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:22 Anyone who touches anything she sits on will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:23 Whether it is the bed or anything she was sitting on, when anyone touches it, they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:24 ""If a man has sexual relations with her and her monthly flow touches him, he will be unclean for seven days; any bed he lies on will be unclean.

Lev 15:25 ""When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period.

Lev 15:26 Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period.

Lev 15:27 Anyone who touches them will be unclean; they must wash their clothes and bathe with water, and they will be unclean till evening.

Lev 15:28 ""When she is cleansed from her discharge, she must count off seven days, and after that she will be ceremonially clean.

Lev 15:29 On the eighth day she must take two doves or two young pigeons and bring them to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

Lev 15:30 The priest is to sacrifice one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. In this way he will make atonement for her before the LORD for the uncleanness of her discharge.

Lev 15:31 ""You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean, so they will not die in their uncleanness for defiling my dwelling place, which is among them.""

Lev 15:32 These are the regulations for a man with a discharge, for anyone made unclean by an emission of semen,

Lev 15:33 for a woman in her monthly period, for a man or a woman with a discharge, and for a man who has sexual relations with a woman who is ceremonially unclean.

The Four Main Discharges

The chapter divides bodily emissions into four categories, separating natural functions from unusual or diseased conditions:

- **Abnormal male discharge:** A chronic or unusual genital flow from a man, requiring a seven-day purification period and a ritual offering after healing.
- **Normal male semen emission:** A temporary state of uncleanness lasting until the evening, requiring bathing.
- **Normal female menstruation:** A standard seven-day period of ceremonial uncleanness for a woman, which also temporarily affects anyone who touches her or her belongings.
- **Abnormal female bleeding:** A prolonged flow of blood outside of regular menstruation, requiring a seven-day waiting period after the bleeding stops before purification.

Meaning of "Unclean"

- **Not moral sin:** Ceremonial uncleanness did not mean a person had sinned or done something evil; it reflected the physical realities of human life and mortality.
- **Proximity to holiness:** Because God's holy presence resided in the tabernacle among the camp, anything symbolizing loss of life, bodily fluid, or reproduction required ritual cleansing before approaching sacred spaces.

The laws regarding reproductive fluids in Leviticus 15 are tied directly to the ancient concept of the "life force."

- **Loss of potential life:** Blood and semen were viewed as the fluid carriers of life. When a person experienced a bodily discharge—whether normal (menstruation, semen emission) or abnormal (hemorrhaging)—they were symbolically "leaking" or losing life forces.
- **The boundary of life:** Bringing a physical reminder of mortality and the loss of life into the presence of the Source of Life was seen as a major symbolic contradiction.

Leviticus 15 relates to Jesus and the New Testament by establishing the concept that ceremonial uncleanness is contagious, which Jesus then dramatically reverses through His healing touch and the establishment of the New Covenant. [[1](#), [2](#)]

The Principle of Uncleanness in Leviticus 15

- **Bodily realities:** Leviticus 15 outlines ritual purity laws regarding natural and chronic bodily discharges, including menstruation and abnormal flows of blood or semen. [[1](#), [2](#)]
- **Contagious impurity:** Under the [Mosaic Law](#), touching an unclean person or object transferred that uncleanness. As Pastor David notes in the [Enduring Word Commentary](#), “the unclean can contaminate the clean, not the other way around.”
- **Social isolation:** Sufferers—such as a woman with chronic bleeding—were kept on the margins of the community and separated from the tabernacle.

Reversing the Flow: Jesus and the Gospels

- **The bleeding woman:** Leviticus 15 finds a direct narrative echo in the Gospels with the woman suffering from a hemorrhage for 12 years. Under the law, touching Jesus should have made Him ceremonially unclean. Instead, “Jesus was able to heal her, achieving what the law could not.”
- **Luk 8:43** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her.
- **Luk 8:44** She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.
- **Luk 8:45** "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."
- **Luk 8:46** But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."
- **Luk 8:47** Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.
- **Luk 8:48** Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."
- **Spiritual contagion of grace:** Jesus reverses the old operational order. When He touches the unclean (such as lepers or those with discharges), His clean holiness flows *into* them, cleansing them rather than being defiled by them.

Fulfillment in the New Testament

- **End of ritual separation:** The physical purification laws and external washings of the Old Covenant point forward to Christ, who fulfills their underlying demand for absolute holiness.
- **2Co 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- **Mat 5:17** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
- **Mat 5:18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.
- **Mat 5:19** Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
- **Mat 5:20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.
- **Inner purity:** Rather than temporary, external conformity or animal sacrifices, the New Testament emphasizes that believers receive permanent inner cleansing and forgiveness through faith in Christ's blood

Jesus cleanses us from the inside to make us pure!

Heb 9:11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation.

Heb 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

Heb 9:13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

Heb 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.

1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1Jn 1:10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Eze 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

Eze 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Tit 3:4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

Tit 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Tit 3:6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Tit 3:7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Heb 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,

Heb 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Heb 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.