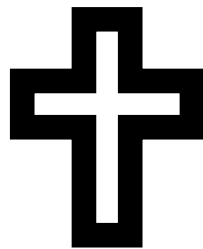


Twelve Lessons

on

Old Testament Apologetics

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CONTENTS

1. THE LAW OF MIXED FABRICS3

2. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A PRIEST5

3. HE DIED FOR PICKING UP STICKS8

4. THE PLUTONIUM OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: SLAVERY10

5. THE JEALOUSY OF GOD16

6. THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN18

7. THE GOD WHO KILLS23

8. A PROBLEM CALLED POLYGAMY27

9. A JOB TO GET PAST JOB30

10. A BALD HEAD AND THE BEAR TRUTH35

11. DOES GOD TEMPT PEOPLE OR NOT39

12. FORBIDDEN FRUIT AND FREE WILL43

THE LAW OF MIXED FABRICS – LESSON ONE

Text – Lev. 19:19; Dt. 22:9-11

Leviticus 19:19 *Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.*

Deuteronomy 22:9 *Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled. 10 Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together. 11 Thou shalt not wear a garment of divers sorts, as of woollen and linen together.*

I. THE CONTEXT

To begin with, let me make you aware of the fact that these are the only two places in the Bible that this is mentioned. That is incredibly significant, and let me tell you why: there is an argument that is constantly used by people to justify their perversion, and it is simply not true. But the fact that people have run around saying it for so long makes everyone believe it is true. Here is the argument:

“Well, if you are going to believe that sodomy and lesbianism is an abomination just because the Old Testament says so, what are you going to do about your own abomination, because the Old Testament also says that wearing mixed fabrics is an abomination, and all of you do that!”

There is just one problem with that: it isn't true. Look at those two passages again and tell me what word is not there? The word abomination! Anyone who tries to equate those two completely different things is being dishonest!

II. THE CONSEQUENCES

In Deuteronomy 22:9, we find out that there are natural and negative consequences for disobedience in these areas:

Deuteronomy 22:9 *Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.*

When different kinds of seeds, plants, or trees are put together, there is a great tendency for them to become diseased, weak, and inferior. An apple tree is not supposed to be planted within *one mile* of a cedar tree! (Cedar apple rust disease.)

III. THE CALLING OUT

Not only were there natural consequences that compelled God to command this separation in all of these areas that He lumped together, there was also a spiritual reason very relevant to Israel and all who love God. The mixing of seeds affected physical health, but the mixture of fabrics was a danger to spiritual health. The pagan nations around them believed and taught that the mixing of seeds and fabrics gave them special magical powers, and they would use these mixtures in their incantations. By commanding that God's people not wear these mixed clothing, He was not trying to keep them healthy, He was commanding that they be visibly separate from the pagan world around them.

IV. THE CONCLUSION

Again, the New Testament does not command that we the church wear garments of only one fabric. But the fact that the Old Testament commanded it for the Jews means that there is something we can learn from it. God was teaching that His people must be separate, and that if we are not, we will become defiled and weak, and produce poor fruit if any. Here is how the New Testament puts it:

2 Corinthians 6:14 *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath*

righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

We find that the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament law of mixed fabrics is that we are not to unequally yoke with unbelievers.

2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

We find that the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament law of mixed fabrics is that we are not to be partakers in uncleanness. The text says not to “touch” it. That means we are not only to not drink, not do drugs, etc, but we are not even to be near them or people who are doing such things. Whatever the sin is, we are not to be there when it happens, for our testimony will suffer “guilt by association.”

When God grabs our lapel and looks at our tags, He is not looking for fabric content. He is looking for the tag on our heart that says “100% Biblical purity.” We should not be looking for a fight, we should never be rude, but as we draw closer to Christ and the truth of His word, we will find that there are some things and people that we will be drawing away from. Not all unity is a good thing. If you put a cat, a pit bull dog, a mouse, a cobra, and a little girl all in one 8 by 8 room, your “unity” is going to get really ugly! Those things simply do not agree. Our unity is to be a unity built on the truth of the Word of God. The closer someone is to the truth of the Word, the greater our unity. The farther away someone is from the truth of the Word, the greater our separation. It’s not complicated, it’s the “law of mixed fabrics...”