

THE LEVITICUS FIVE

Part 6 • March 22, 2026 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

CLEAN VS UNCLEAN

The War Against Unclean Spirits - The Fire is Needed.

Leviticus 6:12–13 • Mark 1:23–26 • Ephesians 4:25–32

We've been walking through this idea in Leviticus, clean and unclean. And if we're not careful, we can reduce it down to diet laws and rituals. But God was never just teaching Israel what to avoid. He was teaching them how to recognize what belongs in His presence. Discernment is needed now more than ever.

Clean is not just about behavior, clean is about proximity. Unclean is not just about sin. Unclean is about anything that contaminates your ability to dwell with God and in effect His Presence. Uncleanness is not just about the physical in Leviticus. It becomes spiritual in the New Testament.

1. UNCLEAN THINGS SPREAD

In Leviticus, uncleanness was transferable. If you touched a dead thing. You became unclean. If you touched something contaminated. It got on you. You didn't have to go looking for it. Contact was enough.

That principle has never changed. What you allow to touch your life will affect your life and the filter of Godly discernment.

What touches your mind. What touches your spirit. What touches your environment. Eventually shapes your discernment. If your navigator is wrong, you will end up in the wrong place.

We live in a culture that says: "I can be around anything and not be affected." That is not biblical. Uncleanness spreads. Now watch what happens when we move into the Gospels. The language shifts. Not just unclean things, now we see unclean spirits.

2. UNCLEAN SPIRITS CONTAMINATE AND OPPRESS

Demon possession is real. It can be scary and concerning. Unclean Spirits indwelling in people is happening in our culture. Just as concerning is Unclean Spirits oppressing believers. Influencing the minds and hearts of people who give them access is at an all time high.

MARK 1:23 (NKJV)

Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit.

Not in the streets. Not in the world. In church (The synagogue). That alone should

wake us up. You can be in the right place physically. And still have something unclean influencing you spiritually.

Unclean spirits in scripture do three things: They defile. They distort. They drive.

They defile (spoil): They bring contamination into a life. They pervert (twist) vision to lead a Godly life.

They distort (pull and twist): They twist identity, thinking, and perception. Confusion and chaos reign in a life full of unclean Spirits.

They drive (control direction): They push behavior, patterns, reactions. You can always tell what is attached to you by how you react, the cycles of your life, and the behavior of your life.

That's what oppression looks like. Not ownership (that's possession). But influence (oppression). But pressure. They pressurize you to make decisions and choices not aligned with the heart of God. If you struggle with cycles, you are under the influence of oppressive unclean Spirits. Their is demonic activity in your life. Their is an open door.

And some people are trying to fix spiritual oppression with natural solutions. Counseling, therapy, meds, are great signs that you are trying to seek an answer, but in and of themselves, they are not the answer. You cannot medicate what is spiritual. You cannot ignore what is influencing you.

3. UNCLEANNESS ISOLATES

In Leviticus, if you were unclean, you were put outside the camp. Your uncleanness isolated you from others. Cut off. Separated. Now look at the man in Luke 8. Living in tombs. Separated from people. Disconnected from purpose. That is still how unclean spirits work today. They isolate you. They tell you: "No one understands," "Pull back," and "Stay quiet."

Anything pushing you away from godly community is not from God. If you find yourself withdrawing, it's a sign that an unclean Spirit is present. God gathers. The enemy scatters.

4: JESUS REVERSES THE FLOW

In Leviticus, if something clean touched something unclean, the clean became unclean. But when you get to Jesus Christ, everything changes. Jesus touches a leper, and the leper becomes clean. Jesus speaks to a demon, and the demon leaves. Jesus steps into uncleanness, and instead of being contaminated, He brings cleansing. Holiness is no longer fragile. Holiness is now powerful. It doesn't just avoid darkness, it overcomes it.

5. YOU CAN BE SAVED AND STILL OPPRESSED

We don't talk about this enough. That man in Mark 1 was in the synagogue. Around truth, around worship, and around the presence of God. But still dealing with an unclean spirit. So let's be clear. Oppression does not mean you are not saved. But it does mean something has access. Some door was opened. Some influence was allowed. Some contact was tolerated. And now it's affecting you

THREE ENTRY POINTS THE ENEMY USES

EPHESIANS 4:27 (NIV)

"Do not give the devil a foothold."

EPHESIANS 4:25-32 (ESV)

The enemy is not all-powerful. He is opportunistic. He looks for access points, not ownership rights. He works through what we allow, entertain, or leave unguarded.

1. Unrepented Sin (Open Doors Through Disobedience)

Sin does not necessarily just break fellowship. It can create access. Ephesians 4:26–27 shows anger leading to a foothold. John 8:34 teaches that sin leads to bondage. Acts 5:3 shows Satan filling the heart after deception.

When sin is practiced, hidden, or justified, it becomes a doorway. What we refuse to confront, we give permission to remain. Unrepented sin says, "God, I want You, but not in this area." The enemy does not need your whole life. He just needs one unlocked door. You cannot walk in freedom while holding onto what opened the door.

2. Deception (Believing Lies Over Truth)

The enemy's primary weapon is not power. It is lies. John 8:44 calls him the father of lies. Genesis 3:1–5 shows deception in the Garden. 2 Corinthians 10:4–5 teaches that strongholds are built in the mind.

He whispers things like: "You will never change." "God does not care." "This is just who you are." When a lie is believed long enough, it becomes a stronghold. You do not have to be controlled. You just have to be convinced. Deception creates wrong identity, wrong thinking, and wrong agreement. The enemy cannot control you, but he will try to convince you.

3. Unhealed Wounds (Pain That Becomes Permission)

The enemy often enters through hurt that was never healed. Ephesians 4:31–32 warns about bitterness and unforgiveness. Hebrews 12:15 speaks of a root of bitterness that defiles many. 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 shows unforgiveness giving Satan an advantage.

Pain is not sin, but what we do with pain matters. Unhealed wounds can turn into bitterness, isolation, rejection, and emotional strongholds. What hurt you cannot control you, unless you hold onto it. When we refuse healing, we give the enemy space to work. The wound did not invite the enemy, but refusing healing gave him a place to stay.

The enemy looks for sin to enter, lies to build, and wounds to hide in. But in the ministry of Jesus Christ: Sin was forgiven. Lies were exposed. People were healed and set free. Every door the enemy has used through sin, through lies, and through pain is closed in the name of Jesus. What had access no longer has authority.

6: WHAT YOU ALLOW TO TOUCH YOU MATTERS

Leviticus teaches us this clearly. It's not just what I do. It's what I allow. Some of us are asking God for freedom. While continuing to allow what contaminates us. You

can't keep touching what's unclean, and expect to walk in purity. You can't keep feeding the flesh, and expect spiritual authority.

At some point you have to decide: I will not allow that to touch my life anymore

When Jesus dealt with unclean spirits, He didn't counsel them, He didn't manage them, He commanded them. Come out, and they obeyed.

That same authority is given to believers. Not in your name, but in His. So this is not about behavior modification, this is about spiritual authority. Some of you don't need more information. You need freedom. You've been dealing with things that keep showing up: Patterns, thoughts, oppression, weight.

And you've tried to manage it. It's about breaking it. So here's the question, what has been touching your life, that you know is unclean? And are you ready to close that door?

Let's go back to Leviticus. This was never just about clean and unclean. This was about the fire.

In Leviticus 6:12-13, God said the fire must never go out.

That was the priest's responsibility. Keep the fire burning. And every sacrifice placed on that altar was consumed. Not managed. Not adjusted. Consumed!

Because the fire of God does not adjust to the sacrifice. The sacrifice is surrendered to the fire. Some of us are trying to hold onto what God is trying to consume. You cannot have cleansing without the fire.

In Mark 1:23-26, A man sits in the synagogue with an unclean spirit. Right place. But wrong influence. And when Jesus Christ shows up. The fire shows up. And what had been sitting there, is confronted and cast out. Because unclean things cannot stay, where the fire is present.

Then Ephesians 4:25-32, do not give the devil a foothold, do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Why? Because what you refuse to put on the altar, becomes access for the enemy.

So here is the question, what are you holding onto that needs to go in the fire?

Because your job is not to protect it. It is to present it. We are the temple now. Which means the altar is your life and the fire is still burning. Waiting for something to consume. Stop managing it. Start surrendering it. Put it on the altar and let the fire of God. Consume what is unclean. And purify what belongs to Him

If you keep the fire burning. Unclean things cannot stay. Because the fire of God will always consume the sacrifice.

*Dig deeper into a Bible Study on Hebrew Law with us.
Be sure to sign up at parkwaycc.com/newsletter. Select
"General (Newsletter + Updates)" to get notified of
additional content for the Bible Study and Sermon Series.*

