

LEVITICUS IN TWO PARTS

The first half of Leviticus contains nonmoral regulations.⁴⁰ By “nonmoral” we mean objective. These laws exist because of who God is and we must obey them because His holiness demands it. The second half of Leviticus contains moral regulations. They’re concerned with motives and attitudes.

We are never free to follow one and not the other. Moses and Jesus entwine the nonmoral and moral codes when they say we must not only love the Lord with all our hearts, souls, and minds but also love our neighbors as ourselves (Deut. 6:5, Mark 12:30–31). We’re obligated to meet God’s standards, but we please Him only if we obey because we want to know and love Him.

Yahweh’s laws are unique in that they address both **what** we do and **why** we do it.

*The first half of Leviticus tells us **how to be cleansed** so that we can be in Yahweh’s presence.
The second half tells us **who we must be** to have an ongoing relationship with God.*

The nonmoral regulations in chapters 1–17 have to do with **worship**.
The moral regulations in chapters 18–27 concern **practice**.

NON MORAL REGULATIONS	MORAL REGULATIONS
Chapters 1-17	Chapters 18-27
Worship	Practice
Tabernacle Way to God (sacrifice) Ceremonial and physical defilement Purification Forgiveness of sins	Character and Conduct Walk with God (lifestyle) Moral and spiritual defilement Punishment (consequences) Living holy lives