

DATE: 17 SEPTEMBER 2023 | SPEAKER: PASTOR LAM ZHENG XIN
TOPIC: GOD IS HOLY | SCRIPTURE: [LEVITICUS 19:2](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Reflect on the holiness of God and how being His people sets us apart
2. Reflect on the importance of the practice of confession and make it part of our daily lives

SERMON SUMMARY

We often equate holiness with purity. However, holiness is more than purity – it means to be set apart and be wholehearted in our devotion and dedication towards the worship and purposes of God.

Point 1: God is holy ([Exodus 33:15-16](#); [Leviticus 10:1-3](#); [1 Peter 1:13-16](#); [Hebrews 10:26-31](#))

Point 2: To be holy is to be separated from the world ([Leviticus 18:1-5](#))

Point 3: The practice of confession in the pursuit of holiness ([Leviticus 5:5](#); [Nehemiah 9:2-3](#); [James 5:16](#))

Point 4: To be holy is to be set apart for the worship and purposes of God ([Leviticus 10:9b-11](#); [Exodus 19:5-6](#); [1 Peter 2:9-10](#); [Romans 12:1](#))

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Zheng Xin shared from Leviticus and His reflections after reading the passages from [Leviticus 11-15](#) on ritual purification. The stories and practices of Leviticus and Exodus tell us about who God is and who we are in light of His call.

The holiness of God is central to who God is ([Leviticus 11:44-45](#), [Leviticus 20:7](#), [Leviticus 20:26](#))
It is a book of instruction and it is important to understand the Biblical worldview thru Leviticus.

Though God was with the Israelites through the entire journey, He told Moses that He would not go up with the Israelites to the promised land as the Israelites had worshipped the golden calf prior to this incident. God did not want to go with them as the presence of a holy God demanded a holy people.

Pastor Zheng Xin noted that there was a constant tension between God's intimacy and God's holiness ([Leviticus 10:1-3](#)). However, we must not make the mistake of thinking that there is a lesser call to holiness because we are under the new covenant. While the way God relates to us has changed (through Christ and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit), God has not changed ([1 Peter 1:13-16](#)). Holiness is not the basis of our salvation but the calling of our salvation. While God's grace and mercy is abundant, we must not profane and blaspheme the grace of God ([Hebrews 10:26-31](#)).

Holiness is not just what we are set apart from, but recognising who we are set apart for. Pastor Zheng Xin shared with us 3 application points in our call to be holy:

1. Separation from the world (Leviticus 18:1-3)

Holiness is separation from the world. Sexual purity is the ultimate tension between our flesh and God's Word, and also an ultimate demonstration of our separation from the world. The practice of holiness is not a killjoy; but holiness is put in place so that we can enjoy the beauty of God's design.

2. The practice of confession

Confession is a discipline that is encouraged by scripture (Leviticus 5:5, Nehemiah 9:2-3, Proverbs 28:13, James 5:16). The principal behind the practice is authenticity and accountability.

3. Set apart for God

Holiness is what we are devoting ourselves to. The opposite of holiness is not unclean, but actually the term "common", something not set apart for God (Exodus 40:9b-11, Exodus 38:1-3). God is calling us to be set apart for His purposes only and desires from us wholehearted service and worship.

As believers, we need to recognise that if the worldview we carry is self-centred or a Biblical worldview. God wanted the Israelites free because He wants them to serve Him (Exodus 8:1). We have wrongly emphasised the blessings of salvation instead of the calling of salvation. Becoming holy is not optional but an identity of the people of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Pastor Zheng Xin shared about God's holiness and our calling to be a holy people. Share with the cell a point in the sermon that stood out for you and the reason it did.**
- 2. We have the great privilege of being called to be a holy people. What does it mean for you to live a life that is set apart for the purposes of God? How does this intertwine or is different from our everyday lives?**
- 3. What role does confession play in our pursuit of holiness? How can you make confession a natural part of your life?**

PRAYER

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray for us to have a Biblical understanding of holiness, and to incorporate the practice of confession in our daily lives.
- Pray for us to grow in our desire to be set apart for God, and for God to grant us the grace and strength we need to be so.

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church that as we have concluded the 21 days of prayer and fasting, we will determine to live in a new normal – one that follows after the example of Christ.
- Pray for our mission teams that are heading to the nations in this season.

3. World

- Pray for Morocco that just experienced a devastating earthquake with more than 2000+ fatalities and many more affected.
- Pray for our new President – that the Lord will bestow upon him wisdom to lead the country in alignment with the ways of God.
- Pray for Hong Kong and Southern China as they battle Super Typhoon Saola, Black Rain and flooding.
- Pray for the wild fires and haze situations in Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sumatra areas.
- Pray for the Presidential election in Taiwan – that a Godly leader will be elected.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. **The Parents Gathering.** The Parents Gathering is held once a quarter for parents to come together to connect with and support one another through the journey of parenting. As we discover more about ourselves and our children, may we grow to become the parents that God intended us to be. Our time together will comprise:

- A short 30-min video teaching segment
- Group connection time
- Personal / couple processing time
- Light refreshments

Our first gathering: Sat, 28 Oct. 2-6pm. Victory Chapel.

Register by Sun, 22 Oct to join us at our first meetup: rlc.sg/pg

Workbooks can be purchased at \$16 each. Details to be released at a later date.

About the Curriculum Used

'The Art of Parenting' is designed to help parents make faith the core of their parenting with intentional, Biblical teaching and Christ-centered plans. Parents will gain renewed confidence, fresh insights on raising children at different ages, and a parenting plan unique to each child's personality and gifting. Inspired by Psalm 127:4, this eight-session study is video based and covers the following topics:

The Goal of Parenting • Forming Character • Applying Discipline • Building Relationships • Understanding Identity • Nurturing Identity • Preparing for Mission • The Power of Family

Preview the Curriculum here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7ZJ31DbGag>

2. **RiverLife's "Make Us One" T-Shirt**

- Cost: \$5 each (subsidised)
- Visit our booth in the Atrium to view sample sizes.
- Order and pay online: rlc.sg/32tee
- Order period: 26 Aug to 17 Sep 2023
- Collection period: 14 to 29 Oct 2023

3. **Equipping – Making Sense of Spiritual Gifts (4 Sessions).** The twentieth century has been called the "Century of the Holy Spirit" as the world witnessed successive revitalisations of the Church through the enablement of the Spirit. This empowerment by the Spirit continues to open up new possibilities for the Church; but also presents old temptations. Join us for this equipping series as we pursue an in-depth study on 1 Corinthians 12-14 so we can heed Apostle Paul's advice not *"to be uninformed about the gifts of the Spirit"* (1 Corinthians 12:1). Details:

- Fri, 15 & 22 Sep, 8-10 pm, Sun, 17 & 24 Sep, 11am-3pm

Venue: Worship Centre

4. **Restoring the Foundations: Hope, Healing & Freedom (6 Hours). Sat, 30 Sep. 9am to 4pm Grace Chapel. \$40 for RiverLifers only (inclusive of lunch and materials).** This seminar will teach about the biblical basis of RTF. You will learn to identify Hinderances and Beliefs that are holding you back. Begin to receive the Freedom to fulfil God's plans, purposes and calling for you. This Integrated Approach to Healing will enable you to receive Personal Restoration. Register by Mon, 25 Sep: rlc.sg/riverlifertf. Enquiries: mosessho@riverlife.org.sg.

5. **Joining The Family. Sat, 30 Sep. 10am - 1pm. Faith Chapel.** Joining The Family is a two-hour session that will help you understand what it means to be a son and daughter of this house. Learn about God's heart for the Church and His call for us to identify with a local body of believers. If you have been baptised, and you are a regular worshipper of RiverLife and belong to a cell group, we invite you to take the next step towards becoming a RiverLife family member.

Registration at rlc.sg/jointhefam (Closing Date: 24 Sep). Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

6. **Water Baptism Class. Sat, 7 Oct. 9am – 3.30pm. Room 205 (Level 2).** Water baptism is a public declaration of a believer's union and new identity in Christ and an outward expression of our commitment in receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour. If you desire to take the step of faith to be water-baptised, do join our baptism class to understand the significance and importance of baptism.

Registration: rlc.sg/baptism-class (Closing Date: 1 Oct). Enquiries: karenkoh@riverlife.org.sg.

Note:

- Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at own expense.
- Our upcoming Water Baptism Service will be held on Sun, 12 Nov at 2pm.

7. **Call for a Suitable Liver Donor.** Father of RiverLifer Beverly Lim is calling for suitable donors for his son, Ryan, who is in need of a liver transplant. Ryan was diagnosed with Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH) that affected his liver and bile duct. On 22 May 2023, Ryan was brought in to see the doctor due to his bloated stomach and the doctor concluded that a liver transplant was needed for Ryan as his liver was failing. The donor needs to be of blood type A+ or O+, with no prior illness and someone with a healthy diet. Read more about their story in this salt and light article [here](#). Should anyone wish to enquire or volunteer, do contact Ryan's dad, Lim Cheng Kwan, directly at +65 9768 4748.

8. **Marriage Retreat.** We had a powerful time with 27 married couples in March as we piloted our first Marriage Retreat. It was a powerful time of learning, rejuvenation, healing and restoration for our couples. No couple left unimpacted. We would like to encourage married couples to join us at this retreat and experience God's hand on your marriage.
- For more information, download the eBrochure here: rlc.sg/mrBrochure
 - Highlights from previous retreat: <https://youtu.be/csHrCtBsuWg>
 - Link to signup: rlc.sg/mr

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. Church Calendar Highlights

- *Quarter 3*
 - Bible Equipping – Making Sense of Spiritual Gifts: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Joining the Family – 30 Sep
 - RTF HHH Seminar – 30 Sep
- *Quarter 4*
 - Baptism Class – 7 Oct
 - Parents Gatherings – 28 Oct
 - Leaders Huddle – 5 Nov
 - Baptism Service – 12 Nov
 - Equipping Series - Leviticus: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Marriage Retreat – 24 to 26 Nov

2. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1).** The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RiverLife Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel.
- *RiverLife Revive Nights.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel (livestream: rlc.sg/revivenights)

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
2. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
3. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>.
4. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

- 1. Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
- 2. RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search **'The RiverLife Podcast'** on Spotify.
- 3. Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
- 4. Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
- 5. Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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