

Kedoshim Vayikra - Leviticus (19-20.27)

God, Who brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt to be a people to God, said to Moses, “ Speak to the whole Israelite community and say: 'You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

*Every person must respect his mother and father and keep My Sabbaths. I am God your Lord. * Do not turn aside to false gods, nor make any metal gods, for I, the Lord, am your God. * When you make a peace offering to God, you shall do so of your own free will. * When you bring in your harvest, leave some for the poor and stranger. I am God your Lord. * Do not steal. * Do not deny a rightful claim. *Do not be dishonest by lying to one another. * Do not swear falsely by My Name for you will be desecrating your God's Name. I am God, your Lord. * Do not keep what is due your neighbor, nor delay a worker's wages. * Do not insult the deaf nor place a stumbling block before the blind. You must fear your God. I am God. * Do not pervert justice by giving preference to the poor nor deference to the rich. Be fair. * Do not go around gossiping. * Do not stand still when your neighbor's life is in danger. I am God. * Do not hate your brother in your heart. * Rebuke your neighbor lest you bear his sins. * Do not take revenge nor hold a grudge. * You must love your neighbor as you love yourself. I am God. * Do not crossbreed your livestock nor mix the land with seeds, nor have garments made of wool and linen. * When you come to the promised land and plant an edible fruit tree, you may not eat from it for three years, then in the fourth year the fruit shall be holy and it shall be something for which God shall be praised. I am God, your Lord.* Do not eat blood. * Do not act on the basis of omens or signs. * Do not shave the edges of your beard. * Do not make gashes for the dead or tattoo marks. I am God. * Do not be sexually inappropriate, lest the land become sexually immoral. * Keep My Sabbaths and revere My Sanctuary. I am God. * Do not turn to psychics or prophesiers. * Stand up before older people and honor the face of an elder. You shall fear God. * When you meet a foreigner in your land, treat him like yourselves and with love as you were once foreigners in Egypt.* Do not falsify measurements of any kind. * You shall have an honest balance, honest weights. * I am God your Lord Who took you out of Egypt. Safeguard My decrees and all My laws and keep them. I am God.

Penalties for breaking of these laws can be death, being cut off spiritually from the community and guilt. I am the Lord. Do not commit incest or adultery. Safeguard My all of My Decrees and laws in your new land and do not follow the perverse ways of the people who live there now. For I am driving them out so that you can inherit the land flowing with milk and honey. I am God, your Lord Who has set you apart from other peoples. Remember to always separate the clean from the unclean. You shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and I have separated you from among the nations to be Mine.

Questions: 1) How are you honest and fair? 2) What does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? 3) How do you safeguard God's Decrees? **Illustration ideas:** Moses telling the people the laws...a person being fair...an honest scale...safeguarding God's Decrees...being kind to the deaf, blind or stranger...