

**NUMBERS 5: IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY GOD****OVERVIEW**

Chapter 5 deals with the treatment of sins and transgressions in the presence of our Holy God. God has set up camp in Israel and we had just looked at the Levites whose duty included the maintenance of a cordon around the tabernacle to ensure separation. Here in chapter 5, the 3 sections each gives us a picture of what sin is in the presence of God.

Numbers 5:1-4	Sin as defilement and death
Numbers 5:5-10	Sins as transgression
Number 5:11-31	Sin as unfaithfulness that has to be addressed

**NUMBERS 5:1-4 SIN = DEFILEMENT AND DEATH**

What is the command here? Who are to be expelled (verse 2)?

Lepers: (see also Leviticus 13:3,8) who do you think this represents?

Bodily discharge: (see also Leviticus 15:2) what do you think this is all about?

Contact with corpse: (see also Leviticus 21:1) how can this happen?

Look at all the cases, what do you think it is trying to tell us?

What is the reason for the commandment (see verse 3)?

So what is the issue?

---

New Testament answers:

1. Luke 5:12-15
2. Luke 8:43-48
3. Hebrews 13:11-13

Application: (Romans 8:24-25)

NUMBERS 5:5-10 SIN = TRANSGRESSION

Our sin is not just who we are (previous section) but also what we do that is contrary to God.

Read through Leviticus 5:14-6:7; identifies the kind of trespasses that would qualify under this section.

What do you think Scripture means in verse 6: *“When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the Lord”* ?

---

Name the two actions required of the transgressor:

Read Matthew 5:23-24; how would you synergize it with the reading here in Numbers 5:5-10?

Note the principle of restitution that is always God's way for man to show grieve when we recognize that we have sinned against another person. Read (Luke 19:2-9); what do you think of Zacchaeus's declaration in verse 8?

*“Real love means always having to say a lot more than ‘sorry!’ Real love means acknowledging guilt to God and man, accepting blame, accepting consequences, making amends and seeking forgiveness – and all with a ‘broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart’ (Psalm 51:17). Saying sorry is never good enough! Without these elements just mentioned, it is tantamount to an evasion of guilt and responsibility and no more than a sop, a form of words devoid of the essential components that make for genuine reconciliation.”*

*According to Promise, Gordon J Keddie pp 39*

Restitution has 2 effects:

1. To the injured party:
2. To the person who has committed the offense:

The final process is the sacrifice of atonement. What does it mean to include this in the whole command?

**NUMBERS 5:11-31      SIN = UNFAITHFULNESS THAT HAS TO BE ADDRESSED**

What is the issue here?

Read through the whole procedure, what do you think is the basic principle at work here?

Outline the process below:

	Verses	Action	Remarks
1	Numbers 5:15-16		
2	Numbers 5:17-22		
3	Numbers 5:23-26		
4	Numbers 5:27-28		

5	Numbers 5:29-31		
---	-----------------	--	--

Note:

On the nature of the ritual:

On why it is the woman who seem to be in the spotlight:

Read the account on Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5), what about those 'who are weak and sick and many who have slept' in 1 Corinthians 11:29, or read 1 Corinthians 5:11-13 or Revelations 21:8, 22:15. Together with Numbers 5, what summary can you make of all these passages?

## CONCLUSION

John 8:11b

My Applications: