



Sermon Discussion Guide

Leviticus 17 | Kevin DeYoung

“There’s Power in the Blood”
Sunday Morning, April 16, 2023

Big Idea: “The stain of blood is the only thing that can make us clean.”

1. On a scale of 1-10, how well do you handle the sight of *blood*?
2. **Hymn:** Do you have a favorite hymn or song that stands out to you when thinking about the blood of Jesus?
3. **Utilitarian:** “The sacredness of life is not utilitarian.¹ It’s based on the inherent worth of the person.” How does worldly utilitarianism understand human dignity? How does the Christian view of human life (image of God) look different from a purely utilitarian view of human life?
4. **Apologetics:** “The whole sacrificial system was a *gift*. It wasn’t some crass human attempt to placate an angry God.” Have you ever heard someone object to Christianity by saying that the God of the Bible is just violent and blood thirsty? How would you respond?
5. **God’s Love:** Read Rom 5:8 and 1 Jn 4:10. God’s love is not the *consequence* of the atonement but the *source*. Atonement accomplishes reconciliation between God and man, but that doesn’t mean there was no divine affection before the cross. How does this truth encourage our faith?
6. **Justice:** Read 1 Jn 1:9. God doesn’t forgive us on a “divine whim.” Kevin said, “If you belong to Christ, God would be unjust *not* to love you, forgive you, and shower mercy upon you.” How is the link between God’s justice and his forgiveness a comfort to us in the Christian life?
7. **“Drink My Blood”:** Read Jn 6:52-56. In light of all that Leviticus says about abstaining from blood, imagine what it was like for a Jewish audience (disciples, religious leaders, crowds) to hear these words from Jesus about *drinking* his blood. What was this shocking statement meant to show them? What does it teach us about the Person of Christ?
8. **Communion:** Though OT laws about carefully treating blood are passed, the idea persists into the NT. Read 1 Cor 11:27-29. Kevin said “These verses are, in essence, Leviticus 17 transposed into a NT key. You are not handling the blood [of Christ] with reverence.” How does this sermon shed light on partaking of the Lord’s table?²
9. **Scandal of Christianity:** “[The scandal is] this cup of blood, because in this symbolism is divine justice. It means someone had to die for sinners. There’s no way around it. There’s no way to make sense of the OT, Leviticus, Jesus, or the cross, except by this scandal: that someone has to die for sinners.” Take a moment to pray for some family or friends who have yet to put their faith in Christ.

¹ Utilitarianism sees the value of something *strictly* in terms of how much benefit it produces.

² For reference, see Westminster Shorter Catechism #97

Q: What is required to the worthy receiving of the Lord's Supper?

A: It is required of them that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge to discern the Lord's body,¹ of their faith to feed upon him,² of their repentance,³ love,⁴ and new obedience;⁵ lest, coming unworthily, they eat and drink judgment to themselves.⁶