

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18ⁱⁱ

The LORD said to Moses: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God.

You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD.

You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself

the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

ⁱⁱ About the First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18

The book of Leviticus is part of the strand of priestly material that is interwoven throughout Genesis to Joshua. Leviticus blends together cultic requirements for purity and ethical obligations of righteousness. Today's reading is drawn from the holiness code (chaps. 17-26). The holiness enjoined in these chapters is not achieved by the actions or qualities of human beings, but by God's act in separating out a people and binding them to God in a special

covenant.

Chapter 19 echoes the provisions of the Decalogue (Exodus 20). Special attention is given to the needs of the disadvantaged. Each member of the community has the responsibility to correct a fellow-member in love. Leviticus 19:18b, joined with Deuteronomy 6:5, is the basis for Jesus' summary of the law in the New Testament.