The Way of Wholeness Ray Stedman

I. Introduction. Text: Leviticus 20:26.

II. Holiness.

- A. Holiness is not attractive to many.
- B. Holiness is a beautiful thing.
- C. To be holy is to be complete.
- D. We all want to be whole people.
- III. God knows about human brokenness and reaches out to make him whole.
 - A. God reaches out but we are fearful.
 - B. God gave us the Bible to meet us where we are.
 - C. Leviticus shows how Christ will meet believers' needs in the present.
 - D. Leviticus also helps believers to understand themselves. (Romans 7)
- IV. Provision: revealing what man is like. (Leviticus 1-16)
 - A. Burnt offering.
 - B. Meal offering.
 - C. Peace offering.
 - D. Sin offering.
 - E. Trespass offering.
 - F. These offerings speak to the two fundamentals of human existence: love and responsibility.
 - 1. Love is an essential.
 - 2. In order to have self-respect and a feeling of worth, one needs responsibility.

3. The priesthood is provided to help us work out love and responsibility emotionally and intellectually.

4. Our God of love tells us the difference between what helps and what hurts.

5. Man is given the opportunity to respond.

- V. Performance that follows from provision.
 - A. One cannot expect performance without provision.
 - B. Elements.
 - 1. Blood is the basis for fulfillment.

a. God is telling us that the issues of our lives are very deep and can only be solved by a death.

b. We will never make it based on natural life.

- 2. The practice of love in every day of life.
- 3. The enjoyment of the power and the presence of God.

4. An awareness of the issues at stake. There is the possibility of a choice that we can make.

C. God wants us to be His.

1. God sees our hurts and heartaches and declares us His.

2. He also declares that we will be His wholly.

Application questions:

1. What does it mean to be holy?

2. Why cannot one expect to perform for God without His provision?

3. Why is love and responsibility essential for human existence? What areas of your life do you need to exercise love and responsibility more fully? Be specific.