

## The Firm Foundation of Elohim Stands Part 5 — An Acceptable Sacrifice

So how are we going to be purified? 1 Jn 3:1-3 are the only ones who are going to be purified. We see how great is the love that our Father has lavished on us. We are the children of God now. We do not have to wait; we are, right now, the children of God. And, in verses 2-3, everyone who has this hope fixed on Him will purify himself and be like Him. We have to have that hope *fixed on* Him and we will be purified as He is pure. And that is the process that is going on at this very moment with those who belong to Him (Mal 3:3). We are being purified so that whatever we do will be acceptable to Him. We are being purified to have acceptable sacrifices. So are our sacrifices acceptable? We do not offer animals up anymore because we have our Master. And we do not offer Him up anymore, for His work has already been accomplished. Now the Holy Spirit's work is being accomplished, if we allow Him to do it

So is our sacrifice acceptable (Rom 12:1)? Well, the more we know, the more they are not. What if one person's sacrifice is not acceptable? What if he is still worthless, engages in worthless things? He brings it into the sacrifice; his part is not acceptable, it is defective. If one person's part is not acceptable, for lack of grace (Heb 12:15), we are responsible to go to the person and help him to be able to judge himself, help him to see what he is doing. And if he does not receive you, then you bring another person or two people who see this with you to tell him about what you see in him. And if he does receive you, you have won your brother back. But if he does not receive you, and he does not receive two or three others, then take it to the *qahal* or to the whole edah, to the whole community (whatever the *qahal* consists of). And then if he does not receive from the *qahal*, cut him off because he is going to defile your sacrifice — your sacrifice will not be acceptable.

If there was one defective part in that animal, the whole animal was rejected and they could not use it. It meant that someone did not give the best of his flock. And therefore we now are a *living sacrifice* made up of many bodies (Rom 12:1-2). And if there is one defective part in it, it keeps the whole sacrifice from going up to our Father because we are not seeing to it that our brothers are receiving grace, and if there is one defective part, it defiles the many — it defiles the community (Heb 12:15).

So we are responsible for one another; we are our brother's keeper. If we are not our brother's keeper, we may not even be His (1 Jn 2:4), for these are the commandments of our Master. We know that if we say we belong to Him and we do not keep His commandments, we are liars. So now we must be able to judge what it is to stand aloof from these things — *cleanses himself from these things*' (2 Tim 2:21). We are supposed to stand aloof from, cleanse ourselves from something. What are we supposed to cleanse ourselves, stand aloof from? What are these things? 2 Tim 2:19 — This presumes you are His. But in some cases there are people who are not His. It says that those who name the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness. If you cannot abstain from wickedness, it means you are *not* His (Rom 6:14). So if you say you are a believer, that you know Him, yet you do not keep His commandments, then you are lying and you do not practice the truth.

That is what He is trying to say, for whoever names the name of the Lord says he believes. He knows whether you are His or not; He knows who does and does not belong to Him. If you belong, it means you are completely His. We have to stand aloof from wickedness — no longer practice lawlessness. The law is for the stranger as well as the citizen.

1 Cor 11:27-31 — We must make sure we are able to judge ourselves right on these things. If we are not able to judge ourselves right, there is a possibility that we do not belong to Him because we cannot judge ourselves. If we really cannot judge ourselves, we will be judged along with the world when the world is judged. So a man has to carry out a complete and thorough examination of himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup. For if he does not judge the Body as the very body of Messiah, he eats and drinks judgment on himself. He must recognize Messiah in the Body as if He was here in person; the body of Messiah is here to represent Him. If we do not judge ourselves right, we may not belong to Him, we may not have the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9).

Therefore let us carry out a thorough investigation unless we fall (1 Cor 11:32) into the judgment in which the world is judged and it be found, after all, that we do not belong to Him, that we are only fooling ourselves and

trying to fool our brothers and sisters. And you might have fooled them, or else your brothers and sisters did see it but did not come to talk about that defect in you, that defect that was ruining the sacrifice. They did not love you enough. They did not love you in the way they were commanded (1 Jn 2:4). 1 Jn 3:14 says that is how we know we have passed out of death into life is how we love one another. Jn 13:34 says we have to love one another as He loved us, and that is how all men will know we are His disciples. 1 Pet 1:8 speaks about how, although we do not see Him, we love Him, and we rejoice... Then verse 22. (1 Jn 3:3 — What did we learn about the word *on?*)

1 Pet 1:9 says the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our soul. What is your faith? The continual hearing of the word. Faith comes by hearing, the continual hearing of the word. The outcome of doing this will be the salvation of our soul (Rom 1:17; Eph 3:12, Greek).