

Introduction

We have a need for a new
apologetic that is not so new.

Purity As An Apologetic

Deuteronomy 23:1-25

Deuteronomy 23:1-2

No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

No one born of a forbidden union may enter the assembly of the LORD. Even to the tenth generation, none of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever, because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you. You shall not seek their peace or their prosperity all your days forever.

Deuteronomy 23:7-11

You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother. You shall not abhor an Egyptian, because you were a sojourner in his land. Children born to them in the third generation may enter the assembly of the LORD.

When you are encamped against your enemies, then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing. If any man among you becomes unclean because of a nocturnal emission, then he shall go outside the camp. He shall not come inside the camp, but when evening comes, he shall bathe himself in water, and as the sun sets, he may come inside the camp.

Deuteronomy 23:12-14

You shall have a place outside the camp, and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole with it and turn back and cover up your excrement. Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

Deuteronomy 23:15-18

You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him. You shall not wrong him.

None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute. You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a dog into the house of the LORD your God in payment for any vow, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 23:19-23

You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest. You may charge a foreigner interest, but you may not charge your brother interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all that you undertake in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowed, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Deuteronomy 23:24-25

If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in your bag. If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

Main Point

The LORD called Israel out
of the nations to represent Him
as a kingdom of priests,
and the purity of their practices
was meant to testify to His holiness.

Their Testimonial

Deuteronomy 4:6-8

See, I have taught you statutes and rules...
Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom
and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who,
when they hear all these statutes, will say,
“Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.”
For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it
as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?
And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules
so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

Purity as Testimony

Purity in the Assembly

No Mutilated Men

Deuteronomy 23:1

No one whose testicles are crushed
or whose male organ is cut off
shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

What is this?

Deuteronomy 23:1

No one whose testicles are crushed
or whose male organ is cut off

shall enter **the assembly of the LORD.**

Deuteronomy 23:1

No one whose testicles are crushed
or whose male organ is cut off
shall enter the assembly of the LORD.

**There is no real separation
between life and liturgy.**

No Misbegotten Offspring

Deuteronomy 23:2

No one born of a forbidden union
may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Even to the tenth generation,
none of his descendants may enter
the assembly of the LORD.

What is this?

Deuteronomy 23:2

No one born of **a forbidden union**

may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Even to the tenth generation,
none of his descendants may enter
the assembly of the LORD.

No Moabites or Ammonites

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever, because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you. You shall not seek their peace or their prosperity all your days forever.

No Moabites or Ammonites

Deuteronomy 23:3-6

No Ammonite or Moabite may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Even to the tenth generation, none of them may enter the assembly of the LORD forever, because they did not meet you with bread and with water on the way, when you came out of

Egypt, and **because they hired against you Balaam** the son
of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, **to curse you.**

But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you. You shall not seek their peace or their prosperity all your days forever.

What's the big deal?

Genesis 12:3

“And I will bless those who bless you,
And **the one who curses you I will curse.**
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

The curse upon Moab and Ammon
was **God’s judgment** upon them.

What about Edomites and Egyptians?

Deuteronomy 23:7-8

You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother.

You shall not abhor an Egyptian,
because you were a sojourner in his land.

Children born to them in the third generation
may enter the assembly of the LORD.

What about Edomites and Egyptians?

Deuteronomy 23:7-8

You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother.

You shall not abhor an Egyptian,
because you were a sojourner in his land.
Children born to them in the third generation
may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Family

Deuteronomy 23:7-8

You shall not abhor an Edomite, **for he is your brother.**

You shall not abhor an Egyptian,
because you were a sojourner in his land.
Children born to them in the third generation
may enter the assembly of the LORD.

Remembrance

Deuteronomy 23:7-8

You shall not abhor an Edomite, for he is your brother.

You shall not abhor an Egyptian,

because you were a sojourner in his land.

Children born to them in the third generation
may enter the assembly of the LORD.

What about the gospel?

Tamar

Ruth

Rahab

Ethiopian Eunuch

**In Christ, all are made pure
and fit for His assembly!**

We testify to the gospel by our unconditional inclusion of all sinners who have turned to Christ without respect to past, parentage, or pigmentation.

Purity as Testimony

Purity in the Assembly

Purity in the Camp

Sanitation

Deuteronomy 23:9-11

When you are encamped against your enemies,
then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing.

If any man among you becomes unclean because of a
nocturnal emission, then he shall go outside the camp.

He shall not come inside the camp, but when evening comes,
he shall bathe himself in water, and as the sun sets,
he may come inside the camp.

Purity even in war!

Deuteronomy 23:9-11

**When you are encamped against your enemies,
then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing.**

If any man among you becomes unclean because of a
nocturnal emission, then he shall go outside the camp.

He shall not come inside the camp, but when evening comes,
he shall bathe himself in water, and as the sun sets,
he may come inside the camp.

What was this?

Deuteronomy 23:9-11

When you are encamped against your enemies,
then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing.

If any man among you becomes unclean because of a

nighttime occurrence, then he shall go outside the camp.

He shall not come inside the camp, but when evening comes,
he shall bathe himself in water, and as the sun sets,
he may come inside the camp.

Cleanliness in the Camp

Deuteronomy 23:9-11

When you are encamped against your enemies,
then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing.

If any man among you becomes unclean because of a
nighttime occurrence, then he shall go outside the camp.
He shall not come inside the camp, but when evening comes,

he shall bathe himself in water, and as the sun sets,
he may come inside the camp.

Sanitation continued...

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall have a place outside the camp,
and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with
your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole
with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.

Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp,
to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you,
therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see
anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

Cleanliness in the Camp

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall have a place outside the camp,
and you shall go out to it. And **you shall have a trowel with
your tools**, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole
with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.
Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp,
to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you,
therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see
anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

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and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with
your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole
with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.

**Because the LORD your God walks in
the midst of your camp,**

to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you,
therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see
anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

Holiness in the Camp

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall have a place outside the camp,
and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with
your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole
with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.
Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp,
to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you,

therefore your camp must be holy,

so that he may not see
anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

Remember your God is near!

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall have a place outside the camp,
and you shall go out to it. And you shall have a trowel with
your tools, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig a hole
with it and turn back and cover up your excrement.

Because the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp,
to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you,
therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see
anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

**“For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it
as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?”**

Sanctuary

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him.
You shall not wrong him.

Sanctuary

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall not give up to his master **a slave who has escaped from his master to you.** He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him.
You shall not wrong him.

Be different! Treat him kindly.

Deuteronomy 23:1

You shall not give up to his master a slave who has escaped from his master to you. He shall dwell with you, in your midst, in the place that he shall choose within one of your towns, wherever it suits him.

You shall not wrong him.

We testify to the gospel by our kindness even when we are being marginalized and attacked.

Purity as Testimony

Purity in the Assembly

Purity in the Camp

Purity in the Land

No Idolatrous Immorality

Deuteronomy 23:1

None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute,
and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute.

You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a dog
into the house of the LORD your God in payment for any vow,
for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

It was common among the Canaanites to
dedicate children to the temple for “service”.

We testify to the power of the gospel and to our faith in a Savior by refusing to engage in the idolatries of our world.

No Usury

Deuteronomy 23:19-20

You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother,
interest on money, interest on food,
interest on anything that is lent for interest.

You may charge a foreigner interest,
but you may not charge your brother interest,
that the LORD your God may bless you
in all that you undertake in the land
that you are entering to take possession of it.

No Usury

Deuteronomy 23:19-20

You shall not charge interest on **loans to your brother**,
interest on money, interest on food,
interest on anything that is lent for interest.

You may charge a foreigner interest,
but you may not charge your brother interest,
that the LORD your God may bless you
in all that you undertake in the land
that you are entering to take possession of it.

Exodus 22:25

If you lend money to My people,
to the poor among you,
you are not to act as a creditor to him;
you shall not charge him interest.

Exodus 22:25

If you lend money to My people,
to the poor among you,
you are not to act as a creditor to him;
you shall not charge him interest.

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If you lend money to My people,
to the poor among you,
you are not to act as a creditor to him;
you shall not charge him interest.

1 John 3:17

But whoever has the world's goods,
and sees his brother in need
and closes his heart against him,
how does the love of God abide in him?

Exodus 22:25

If you lend money to My people,
to the poor among you,
you are not to act as a creditor to him;
you shall not charge him interest.

1 John 3:17

But whoever has the world's goods,
and sees **his brother in need**
and closes his heart against him,
how does the love of God abide in him?

Compulsory brotherhood is not
true brotherhood.

We testify to true brotherhood
when we care for one another
because we care for one another.

No Delinquency

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

If you make a vow to the LORD your God,
you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God
will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.
But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin.
You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips,
for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God
what you have promised with your mouth.

Purity of Intention

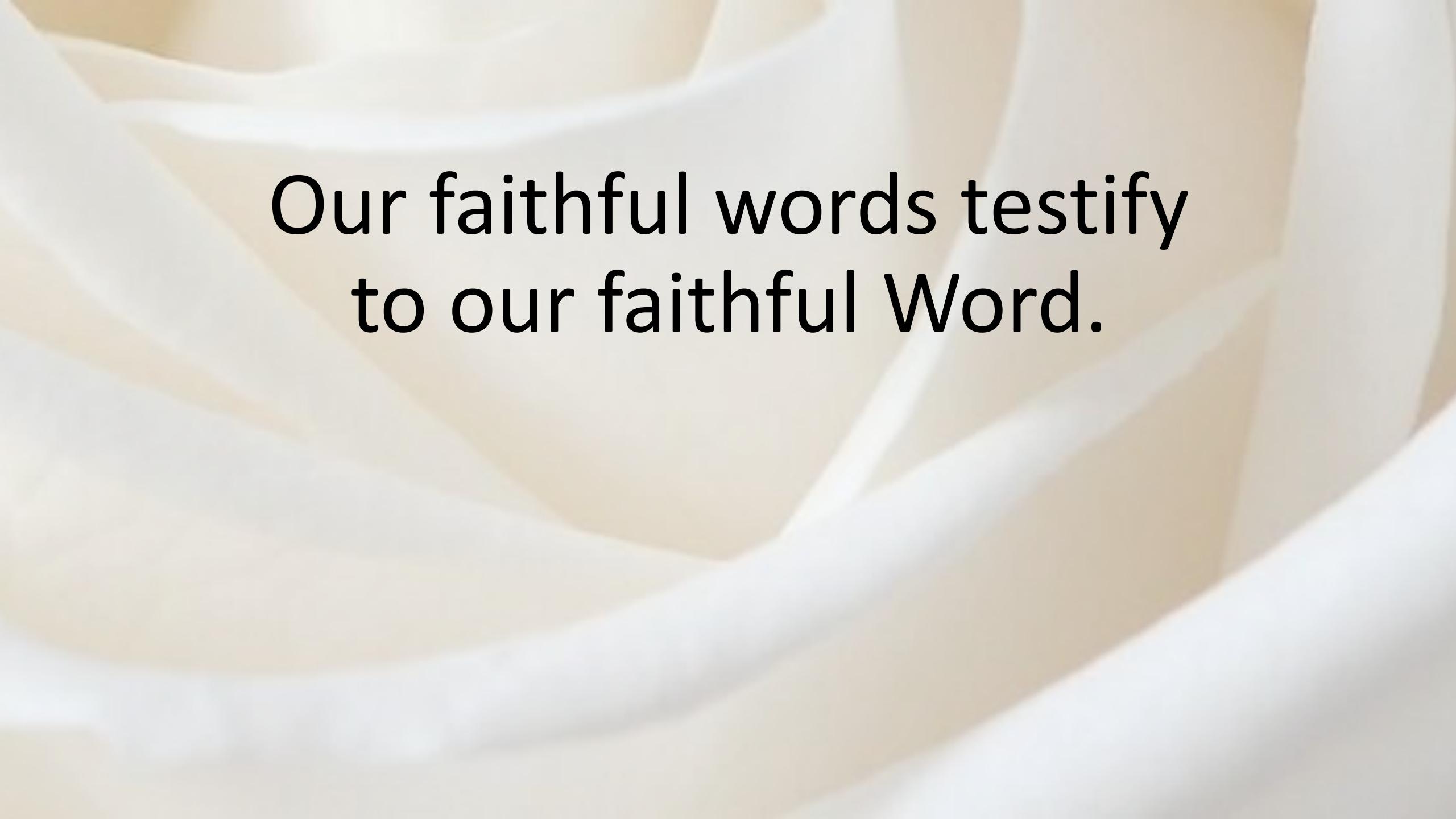
Deuteronomy 23:21-23

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you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God
will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.
But if you refrain from vowed, you will not be guilty of sin.

You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips,
for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God
what you have promised with your mouth.

Matthew 5:37

**“But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’;
anything beyond these is of evil.”**



Our faithful words testify
to our faithful Word.

No Impropriety

Deuteronomy 23:24-25

If you go into your neighbor's vineyard,
you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish,
but you shall not put any in your bag.

If you go into your neighbor's standing grain,
you may pluck the ears with your hand,
but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

You shall not steal!

Deuteronomy 23:24-25

If you go into your neighbor's vineyard,
you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish,
but **you shall not put any in your bag.**

If you go into your neighbor's standing grain,
you may pluck the ears with your hand,
but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

You shall not steal!

Deuteronomy 23:24-25

If you go into your neighbor's vineyard,
you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish,

but **you shall not put any in your bag.**

If you go into your neighbor's standing grain,

you may pluck the ears with your hand,

but **you shall not put a sickle to your
neighbor's standing grain.**

“Give an inch, take a mile”
is overthrown by love.

Conclusion

Israel's peculiar purity was meant to be an apologetic for the holiness and nearness of their God.

Similarly, the Lord asks us to practice a peculiar purity that will testify to the power of His Gospel.