

## Introduction:

There are points in the Bible where we see people hitting their "high water mark" and then something happens which shows either disbelief in God or at least disobedience. David's sin with Bathsheba is an example. Another is in Leviticus with Aaron and the priesthood. *Leviticus 8* there is the consecration of Aaron and his sons, *v. 2*; Aaron's priestly garments, *v. 7-9*; the offerings for Aaron and his sons, *v. 18ff*, ending with *verse 36*. *Chapter 9* they begin their priestly duties, God's pleasure can be seen in *vv. 23-24*. But then in *chapter 10* we have the account of Nadab and Abihu as they offered stranger fire, *v. 1-2*. Resulting in their death and God's instruction to Aaron and the rest of the people, *v. 3ff*. There are lessons we can learn from this as people today are doing the same thing as Nadab and Abihu.

### I) Individual Responsibility

#### A) Aaron had obeyed God, *Lev. 9.23; 16.1ff*

1. Aaron was the "High Priest" and his stance before God had not changed.
2. Nadab and Abihu were accountable for what they did and they were punished, *Ezekiel 18.20-21*.
3. God reminded Aaron of his responsibilities, *Lev. 10.5-7*.

#### B) The Jews were proud of their lineage, *John 8.33, 39*.

1. Each of us will stand or fall based on what we have done, *2 Corinthians 5.10*.
  - a. Charlie Reese was a syndicated writer and I contacted him asking permission to print an

article in our bulletin. He wrote back and stated his mother was a member of the church of Christ until her death.

- b. Fred Thompson the actor wrote a book of his life and stated his mother was a member of the church of Christ.
  - c. In neither case were these men saved because of their mothers.
2. Can not use our parents as our authority, *Colossians 2.8*.
  3. God has children but no grandchildren.

## II) Apostacy Is Close

### A) **Apostacy starts small. (They offered strange fire!)**

1. Eventually Israel worshipped other gods, offered their children as sacrifices.
2. Eventually God allowed the people to be carried off into captivity and the temple to be destroyed.

### B) **Look at religion today.**

1. How many different doctrines and denominations were there on the Day of Pentecost?
2. How many existed around 100 AD or 150 AD?
3. What was the teaching on the Day of Pentecost?
4. Any variation from the doctrine of Christ is wrong?  
*2 John 9; 2 Peter 2.1-3.*
5. We are told to hold to the pattern, *2 Timothy 1.13*, to test the spirits, *1 John 4.1*.

**C) Teaching is a never ending process (From the Bible)**

1. The next generation does not need to follow the previous generation but the Bible. *Judges 2.10.*
2. To learn and then teach others, *Ezra 7.25.*
3. Remember the old carpenter's adage, measure twice and cut once.

**III) The Need For Authority**

**A) God is Holy, *Leviticus 9.1-2; 20.26; 22.31-32; 1 Peter 1.16.***

1. What does that mean?
  - a. Wear a shirt with Jesus on it? Carry around a Bible?
  - b. To keep His word, *Deut. 4.1-2; Malachi 4.4; Revelation 22.18-19*
2. To be set apart and not to become common!
3. To be a holy priesthood, a holy nation, and a holy people, *1 Peter 2.9.*

**B) God must authorize an action before we can be holy, *2 Samuel 6.6-7.***

1. David devised his own way of moving the ark but it wasn't God's way.
2. People today devise their own worship and are offering strange fire before God.

**IV) God's Reaction To Sin**

**A) Many are fooled by sin, *Hebrews 3.13.***

1. Sin tends to be pleasurable, accepted by many, and adaptable.
2. People can rationalize it. I don't know why Nadab and Abihu offered the strange fire but I can almost hear some of their rationalizations. "What difference does it make, as long as it is fire." Or "Why go all the way over there to get the fire when we have fire right here."

**B) No excuse will make sin ok.**

1. Cannot blame others, *Exodus 23.2*.
2. Cannot claim ignorance. *Acts 3.17*
3. God hates sin, *Exodus 32.28, 33*.
  - a. What if the first person to use a piano in worship was struck dead by God?
  - b. The first time the Lord's Supper was changed?
  - c. The first time the church used money from its treasure for something unauthorized?
4. His judgement was and is final.

**Conclusion:**

You can worship and live any way you want or you can worship and live in the way God approves. Which will it be?