

# Nadab & Abihu

Text: Leviticus 10:1-7

## Introduction:

1. Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
2. There are many powerful and needed lessons to be learned from the Old Testament.
3. The story of Nadab and Abihu serves as a sober reminder of how man must act in order to be pleasing to God.

## I. The Approval of God

- A. Leviticus 9 records God's instructions for the service of the Levites.
- B. Under the leadership of Aaron as High Priest, the first priestly acts were performed in the newly assembled Tabernacle.
- C. Because they complied with God's will, He approved of their service.
  1. His glory appeared (9:23).
  2. He sent fire from Heaven (9:24).
- D. Thus, God was glorified.

## II. The Anger of God

- A. However, Nadab and Abihu – Aaron's two sons – committed a terrible sin on this same great day.
- B. They offered strange fire before Jehovah.
  1. Incense fire was to come from the altar (Lev. 16:12).
  2. This fire came from God (cf. 9:24).
  3. They used fire from some other source.
- C. Because they disobeyed God's will, His anger was hot against them.
  1. He sent fire from Heaven (just as before).
  2. He devoured them – they died.
- D. Thus, God was glorified.

## III. The Authority of God

- A. One wrong action negates all other right ones.
  1. Notice all the things Nadab and Abihu did correctly...
    - a. They were authorized to do this act of worship.
    - b. They used the proper censers.
    - c. They lit the censers with fire.
    - d. They used the correct incense (cf. Exo. 25:38; 28:3; etc.).
  2. They sinned in only one aspect – they used fire of the wrong origin! *{It was not the fire that God specified!}*
  3. The same principle is true today!
    - a. Weekly communion (Acts 20:7).
    - b. Vocal music (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
    - c. Baptism for forgiveness (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; etc.).

- B. God alone has the right to alter His instructions to man.
  - 1. Consider the seriousness of changing the Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).
  - 2. Consider the danger of changing the worship of God.
- C. One does not have to violate “moral law” to be lost.
  - 1. Nadab & Abihu did not commit an act of immorality.
  - 2. They only violated a positive command of God – it was right simply because God commanded it.
  - 3. They were guilty of “will worship” (Col. 2:23).
- D. One must accept God’s punishment of the disobedient (10:3, 6-7).

**Conclusion:**

- 1. May we learn from Nadab and Abihu that God is serious about our keeping His Word.
- 2. May we never change it, nor follow someone who does.
- 3. We must seek to be submissive and obedient to God’s Word alone.