

Leviticus Chapter 18

“Be ye holy, for I am holy”

- The emphasis here isn't simply justice or civic righteousness, as important as they are, but on holiness.
 - Some human activities that courts sanction and society defends, God will one day judge as abominable sin.
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V: 1-2 Remember, do not forget – *“I am the Lord your God.”*

- A statement of authority, and a reminder of both who God is, and who we are before Him.
- Not at all unlike: *“Do this in remembrance of Me...”*
- We need to remember to whom we are accountable.
- We need to remember who's servant we are. We need to give authority to God's word.

V: 3 Don't do the things that the Egyptians and the Canaanites do:

- Don't look back, and don't look around. We cannot get our bearing, our sense of “normal”, what is right or wrong based on our culture or the people around us.
- As they have examined the mummies of Egypt, they have discovered that most of the Pharaoh's and leaders died young, in their 20's and early 30's – due primarily to disease, due to sexual disease.
- The Canaanite culture was extremely debauched and perverse; and because of that God would deal with them:

Deuteronomy 7:1-6 Turn to / read (p.307)

- That is for us today, don't look back at the old life, and don't look at the culture around us.

Ephesians 4:17-19 ¹⁷This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, ¹⁸having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: ¹⁹Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 “¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, ¹⁸and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

V: 4-5 A simple call to obedience: *“I am the Lord your God”* – authority.

Psalm 40:8 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.”

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.”

Psalm 33:11-12 “¹¹The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations. ¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.”

- It is to be a way of life, living, walking, abiding in obedience to God’s word.

Psalm 37:4 “Delight thyself also in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

- Obedience leads to life!

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (p.340)

V: 6-20 Sometimes we forget that God invented sex, and He ordained marriage, so He has every right to establish the boundaries that control or regulate it.

- Lists all the different people that are not to have sexual relations.
- When it says that they are not to “uncover their nakedness” – it is more than just a peep show, it is speaking of a sexual relationship, such as in incest or adultery.

V: 7 Not with your father or with your mother.

V: 8 Not with your step mother.

- V: 9 Not with your sister or step sister.
V: 10 Not with any of your grand daughters.
V: 11 Not with your step sister. (repeated)
V: 12-14 Not with any of your aunts.
V: 15 Not with any daughter in law.
V: 16 Not with your sister in law.
V: 17 Not with both a mother and daughter, or their children, or grandchildren. This then includes daughters, step daughters, grand daughters, etc.
V: 18 Neither of two who are sisters. (Rachel & Leah?)
V: 19 Nor a woman who is in her menstrual cycle. (Leviticus Ch. 15)
- V: 20 Nor with a woman who is the wife of another – adultery.

7th Commandment:

Exodus 20:14 “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

- God addresses what would seem to be common sense issues to us, yet the Egyptian and Canaanite cultures did all these things and more.
- There are groups out there trying to legalize sex with children, polygamy, and all the things we read about in this chapter. This last year there were group in Norway that almost succeeded in granting human right to monkeys, we very much need God’s direction.
- To some these are simply lifestyle issues, to God they are an abomination that will lead to personal and national death.

V: 21 Thy seed refers to children or descendants, being passed through the fire; meaning sacrificing their children to the pagan god Molech, the god of pleasure.

- In ancient days they had cast iron and brass statues of their god Molech. The would build a fire inside the idol and heat it up until it was red hot, then as the drums were beating loudly to drown out the screams of the babies, they would place their children into the red hot, extended arms of Molech where they would be burned to death. Worshipping the god of pleasure, the god of convenience.
- This is really no different from the abortion issue today, today these same worshippers burn their children to death in a saline solution, or cut them to pieces, dismembering them in the womb, or with other equally cruel techniques.
- Most if not all abortions are performed for the sake of convenience, still for the sake of pleasure.
- 95% off all abortions are the result of sex outside of marriage.

- Not profaning the name of thy God. We are made in His image, He is the One who gives life, He alone has the right to take life, when we follow His commandments we glorify His name, when we're disobedient we profane His name.
- He's calling us to be obedient and not do what the pagan's do, specifically not to destroy our children.

V: 22 Prohibition against homosexuality – it is an abomination.

- This is very clear and concise information, easily understood by those who are willing to receive the truth.

Leviticus 20:13 “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”

Deuteronomy 23:17 “There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.”

Romans 1:24-27, 32 ²⁴Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.” – ³²Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

- Every decadent society on the verge of collapse has been characterized by this behavior.
- Homosexuality is a sin that is in it's very nature a blasphemous affront toward God.
- Marriage, as defined in the Bible, is between a man and a woman. Marriage is intended to be monogamous and heterosexual. As such the marriage relationship is intended to be a typological picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the church.
- Homosexuality is a spiritual picture that adulterates or perverts that typology, it is the opposite of what God describes in nature, and it is most often polygamous.
- 66% of homosexual men polled indicated that they had over 500 partners.

- Homosexuality is blasphemous because in it man is depicted as finding spiritual fulfillment apart from God, and in a manner in opposition to God's will.

Isaiah 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

- The very term "gay" & "homo-phobic" are great examples of this.
- Many justify homosexual practice on the basis of *love*. They might say, "How can it be wrong to *love* someone of my own sex? How can love be wrong?" Yet if someone loves their children, it does not justify sexual conduct with them. The issue isn't love; the issue is of sexual conduct. Of course, the Bible in no way condemns love between people of the same sex, but it does say that *sexual conduct* between those people is sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomites), ¹⁰nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

- In our country we acknowledge the health risks involved in consuming alcohol, using drugs, or smoking cigarettes. Thus there are warnings on every pack of cigarettes warning against such health risks. Schools spend a lot of money talking about these habits.
- The CDC has reluctantly published results of their research that indicate that homosexual behavior causes the transmission of various STD's to be 44 times higher amongst homosexual men, homosexual men account for 65% of all syphilis cases.
- The average life span of a male in the US is 74 years, the average life span of a homosexual man is 42 years.
- Instead of warning children about the harmful effects of these practices, they are being promoted and encouraged in our public schools / government schools.
- The murder rate between homosexuals, the domestic violence rates amongst homosexuals, the suicide rate is much higher than the heterosexual relationships. Substance abuse is much higher, homosexuals are more likely as a people group to get a traffic ticket than heterosexuals – they don't obey the rules.

V: 23 Prohibition against bestiality.

Exodus 22:19 “Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.”

Leviticus 20:15-16 ¹⁵“And if a man lie with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast. ¹⁶“And if a woman approach unto any beast, and lie down thereto, thou shalt kill the woman, and the beast: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.”

- Bestiality on the world wide web = 2-300 hits.
- “zoo-phile” = 400,000 + hits.
- The modern day epidemic of A.I.D.S. started with men having sexual relations with monkeys and contracting a crossover animal disease that now infects humans, that humans are not able to deal with.

“Confusion” (H 8397). tebel, teh'-bel; unnatural, bestiality, confusion.

- Describing a violation of nature or divine order, perversion.

Up to this point we've been told what not to do, now we get into why.

V: 24-25 The people that do these things defile themselves, they make themselves unclean.

Psalm 106:34-48 read

- One of the results of this sin is personal defilement.
- **Do not defile yourselves:** Our modern culture often refuses to see any aspect of sexual conduct as *defiling*. The only measure is immediate pleasure, not right or wrong. But sexual sin *does defile* us and it *does* harm us. God's laws are given for our best, intended as a benefit, as a protection.
- Statistically speaking, married couples live longer, get more enjoyment out of sex, have more sex, and are happier than those who are not married - obviously, trends that show God's way is the best way!
- Another result: National destruction.
- The people that do these things defile their land – and will be vomited out.
- Every culture that has embraced these practices has fallen or been destroyed.
- Gibbons: Decline and Fall of the Roman empire – homosexuality and sexual sin, perversion was at the center of it.

V: 29 The final result is eternal destruction, damnation:

Revelation 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

V: 30 “... I am the Lord your God” – we need the reminder of who we are, what we are, and who we belong to.

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- It is very important to note that people who have committed these sins can be forgiven and received into the body of Christ and the Kingdom of heaven:

Jesus teaches:

Matthew 12:31 “Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”

1 Corinthians 6:11 “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”