

Laws Concerning Sex

Leviticus Chapter 18

Lev 18:1 **1) Prohibition Against Incest** vs 1-18

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Lev 18:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, **I am the LORD your God.**

- "I am the Lord your God" - will be repeated 26x in the next 3 chapters.
- This next section of Leviticus Chapters 18, 19, 20 moves from Laws pertaining to sacrifice to Laws pertaining to conduct. This Chapter (18) - Sexual Conduct.
- God gives the 1st reason for these prohibitions - because, He says, "I am the Lord Your God"
 - One might look at this as a demanding God dishing our orders to be followed unquestioned.
 - The truth is God's great love and care for Israel and man is why He gives us these laws. They are to benefit us. To give and maintain life.
 - **John 10:10** "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly"
 - **1 John 4:16-19** "We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us."
- Also the end of **Chapter 20** gives us a 2nd reason for these prohibitions.
 - God is preparing them for what is coming next. A Land, the Promised Land.
 - **Leviticus 20:22-26** "You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out. Moreover, you shall not follow the customs of the nation which I will drive out before you, for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them. Hence I have said to you, "You are to possess their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess it, a land flowing with milk and honey." I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples. You are therefore to make a distinction between the clean animal and the unclean, and between the unclean bird and the clean; and you shall not make yourselves detestable by animal or by bird or by anything that creeps on the ground, which I have separated for you as unclean. Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine."

Lev 18:3 'You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.

Lev 18:4 'You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; **I am the LORD your God.**

Lev 18:5 'So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; **I am the LORD.**

- There are things that the Children of Israel saw and learned in Egypt. There are even, in some ways, worse things they will see in Canaan.
- God wants them to take their instruction from Him not from the conduct of the world in which they live.
- The contrast between verse 3 and 4 = living according to statutes of Egypt/Canaan verses living according to statutes of the Lord. God wants them to live according to His statutes.
- We too should take our instruction about our conduct from the Lord not the world in which we live.
- "In the early church, one argument for the truth of Christianity offered by Christians was "You can know it's true by looking at our lives." Today, the Christian world says, "Don't look at me, look at Jesus."" (Guzik)

- Lev 18:6 'None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; **I am the LORD.**
- "Uncover Nakedness" used 17 times in this chapter.
 - This is an idiom that means so much more than nudity. It is a broad term that includes all sorts of inappropriate sexual activity from voyeurism, fondling to intercourse.
 - Most cultures forbid marriage and sexual intercourse between close family members due to a decay of social order and because of birth defects.
- Lev 18:7 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness.
- This verse shows that the nakedness (sexual privilege) belongs to spouses. A husband for his wife and a wife for her husband. It belongs to no one else.
- Lev 18:8 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.
- 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 tells us that the Corinthians, knowingly, had a member who was fornicating with his father's wife. The Corinthians Christians were glorying in their tolerance and false grace they were showing towards this issue. Paul rebuked the Church and put out the fornicator.
- Lev 18:9 'The nakedness of your sister, {either} your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born outside, their nakedness you shall not uncover.
- Sister or Step Sister
- Lev 18:10 'The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours.
- Grandchildren
- Lev 18:11 'The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness.
- Sister or Step Sister
 - 2 Samuel 13 - Amnon half brother of Tamar and Absalom 1. After the Law 2. Amnon Killed
- Lev 18:12 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative.
- Lev 18:13 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative.
- Aunt
- Lev 18:14 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt.
- Uncle's wife (aunt)
- Lev 18:15 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.
- Daughter-in-Law
 - Genesis 38 - Judah and Tamar 1. Before the Law 2. It still didn't go well for them.
- Lev 18:16 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.
- Deuteronomy 25:5-10 speaks of the Law of the Levirate. This is where a brother is to marry his brother's wife if he dies to care for her.
 - This verse 16 is not speaking about the Law of the Levirate, but about a sexual relationship between a man's wife and her brother-in law.
- Lev 18:17 'You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; they are blood relatives. It is lewdness.
- Lewdness = wickedness.

Lev 18:18 'You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.

- A man's wife and her sister while your wife is alive.
- Genesis 29 - Jacob, Leah, Rachel 1. Before the Law 2. Didn't go well with them either.
- The purpose is that the sexual relationship is between a husband and wife.

Lev 18:19 **2) Other Prohibitions of Sexual Behavior** vs 19-23

'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity.

- When we looked at Leviticus 15:24 there was more detail to be covered concerning sex during a woman's menstrual period.

Lev 18:20 'You shall not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife, to be defiled with her.

- Exodus 20:19 - The 7th commandment condemns adultery.
- Interesting that someone would think the hurt caused to a spouse and children would be reason to prohibit adultery. Here we see that adultery "defiles" the offender.

Lev 18:21 'You shall not give any of your offspring to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; **I am the LORD.**

- In Canaan, the land they will be going to, as well as the Ammonites worshipped Molech. One form of worship was to offer one's child up on the idol. The bronze idol of Molech had its hands stretched out in front. These were over a fire pit and the arms were heated red hot. The parents would have their child placed in the searing arms of Molech.
- Due to the undisciplined sexual behavior of the Canaanites, children were born to mothers that were not in a marriage relationship. This form of worship to Molech was a method to eliminate illegitimate children. Today, we do not wait until the children are born.
- Leviticus 20:23 the Lord said "for they did all these things, and therefore I have abhorred them."
- Other times this has occurred
 - 2 Kings 17:31 "the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech the gods of Sepharvaim."
 - Jeremiah 7:31 "They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind."



Lev 18:22 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

- Homosexuality is prohibited.
- It is an abomination.
- Homosexuals would tell you they do not have any control of their sexual orientation. That "God made them that way". No, Adam's sin made them that way. Just like the perverted heterosexual that cannot control their desire and reserve sex for their spouse only or the pedophile who claims they do not understand why they hurt children.
- Someone may say how can it be wrong if I love someone of my own sex. The issue isn't love it is sexual conduct. The Bible doesn't condemn love between people of the same sex. It condemns homosexuality.
- Romans 1:24-32 "Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

- Lev 18:23 'Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.
- Bestiality is prohibited.
 - It is perversion.
- Lev 18:24 **3) Summary of Prohibitions** vs 24-30
'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.
- "These Things"
 - Incest, Adultery, Inner Marrying, Sacrificing of Children, Homosexuality, Bestiality
 - These things defile the nation and God Casts Out.
- Lev 18:25 'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants.
- So, we have seen people can be defiled. It carries a death penalty.
 - We have seen nations can be defiled. Nations will be cast out.
 - Now we see land can become defiled. The land will spew out the inhabitants.
- Lev 18:26 'But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, {neither} the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you
- Lev 18:27 (for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled);
- Lev 18:28 so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you.
- God tell the sons of Israel that they are not to participate in any of these abominations.
 - Not them or anyone who lives among them that are not sons of Israel.
 - God's warning isn't to put some restrictions upon Israel to show them who is boss but that they will live and prosper in the land that spewed out the previous inhabitants.
 - God has our good and future in focus when He gives us instructions to follow.
- Lev 18:29 'For whoever does **any** of these abominations, those persons who do {so} shall be cut off from among their people.
- Lev 18:30 'Thus you are to keep My charge, that you do not practice **any** of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so as not to defile yourselves with them; **I am the LORD your God.**' "
- Anyone who practices these things "ANY OF THESE" should be cut off from the people.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 "*For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.*"
 - Ephesians 4:17-19 "*So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.*"
 - 1 Corinthians 5:11 "*But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called **brother** if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.*"