

The Law and Sex

Leviticus 18; 20:10-21

INTRODUCTION

- The second half of the book (**18-27**) deals with the holiness of the people in practice. The first half (**1-16**) dealt with the holiness of priests and their roles
- Of all the instruction and all the regulations to uncleanness, there really hasn't been anything of dealing with moral sin specifically. The most specific and explicit Leviticus gets is right here in **Leviticus 18 and 20:10-21**
- THIS IS ABOUT **HOLINESS**... being set apart for God's purposes, distinct from the pagan world His people live in
 - **"I AM THE LORD" IS THE THEME**

Laws Concerning Sex

A) Sexuality is defined by God NOT the Culture (vv.1-5)

- a. Our Sexuality is tied to God's image
 - i. His image is most lastingly preserved in community through families
 - ii. The breakdown of the family is the breakdown of the image of God with His people
- b. We should glorify God in our sexuality
- c. The culture tolerates what God forbids...you will not answer to culture, but to God - decide
- d. Real life (v.5)
 - i. This is how the faithful live
 - ii. For those who attempt to use the law to earn life, Christ uses this in **Luke 10:28-29**

B) Prohibitions (vv.6-23)

- a. Incest (**vv.6-18**)
 - i. In any relationship by blood or marriage
 - ii. **1 Cor.5:1**
 - iii. This gives us an indication throughout of **Gen.2:24** and the "one flesh" nature of marriage ("uncover nakedness" of the spouse)

- b. Sexual Activity during Menstruation (**v.20**)
 - i. Not repeated in NT as prohibitive while the rest are
 - ii. A decision, in my opinion, for each married couple to make
- c. Adultery (**v.20**)
 - i. Sexual relationship with someone married or engaged
 - ii. **Rom.13:9**
- d. Sexuality related to cultic activity (**v.21**)
 - i. Molech (a god in Canaan)
 - ii. In context, most likely child sacrifice for fertility
- e. Homosexuality (**v.22**)
 - i. Sexual relations between men
 - ii. **Rom.1:26-27**
 - iii. **1 Cor.6:9**
 - iv. **1 Tim.1:8-10**
- f. Bestiality (**v.23**)
 - i. "American Dad" episode (The Fox broadcast network featured bestiality on the program *American Dad* that aired over your public airwaves on Sunday night, January 3rd)
 - ii. Known cultic practice in Egypt and Canaan
- g. Abominations before God should not be the subjects of joking
 - i. **Matt.5:18-20**
 - ii. **Eph.5:3-4**

Consequences for Breaking Laws Concerning Sex (vv.24-30; 20:10-21)

A) Community consequences (vv.24-30)

- a. Excommunication
- b. Capital punishment

B) Personal consequences (20:10-21)

- a. Initial covenant community included civil application
- b. Death

- c. In the NT, the covenant has been fulfilled in Christ, and while the civil punishments no longer apply, the moral seriousness remains, and consequences remain true
- d. Sexual sin is serious before God
 - i. Against the body
 - ii. Leads to death (as all sin, but sometimes disease in the process) - **Romans 1:20-32**
 - iii. **Romans 3:23**
- e. **1 Cor.6:9-11**

Healing in a Sexually Broken World

- A) Understanding the Sin
 - a. **Matt.5:8**
 - b. **1 Cor.6:15-20**
- B) The Atonement
 - a. The substitutionary atoning work of the Priest in Leviticus 16 would cleanse even those with most vile practices - **Lev.16**
 - b. Jesus Christ is that better Priest and Sacrifice, and His blood is sufficient to cleanse all of our unrighteousness (not just what we've done, but who we are) - **Heb.9**
 - c. **Gal.3:12-14**
- C) Repentance
 - a. **2 Cor.12:21**
 - b. **2 Cor.7:10**
 - c. Our sorrow brings us back to the "I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD"
 - i. Remember David?
 - ii. **Psalm 51:3-4**
- D) Sanctification in Sexuality
 - a. Super-Passion

- i. This is the primary motivation in **vv.1-5: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD**
- ii. God is your motivation to be pure sexually
- iii. **Psalm 16:11**

b. Self-Control

- i. The eyes (the entry point)
- ii. The mind (information)
- iii. The heart (the seat of understanding)
- iv. The body (the practice)
- v. The soul (the passion)
- vi. Accountability

c. Sanctifying Marriage

- i. Marriage Bed pure (in thought and act)
- ii. Communication (Song of Solomon)
- iii. Intentional (often except for prayerful purposes)
- iv. **C. S. Lewis**, "*Chastity is the most unpopular of the Christian virtues. There is no getting away from it: the old Christian rule is, 'Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence.'*"

Application

- A) For some of you, sex / lust is what shows you that you are not a follower of God, rather a lover of this world. Sex is not the problem, idolatry is. God wants to be the only ONE you worship. Your only hope to be made new is to come to the cross, see that Christ died for sinners like you and will make you new if you come to Him in repentance and faith.
- B) Dear Christian, some of you are riddled with sexual sin. You know it to be against your beliefs, but what of your desires. You are not to do the things that you did before, or do the things that you would have done had you never met Christ. You're at a crossroads. You must repent. Confess to God that you have profaned His name and that is the highest offense in all of this! Come back to Him now!