



Equipping People for Life

Sexual Purity Among God's Chosen People

Leviticus 18, September 17, 2016

Introduction:

All scripture points to Jesus.

John 5:39 (NKJV) – **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.**

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV) – The law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Leviticus 18:1-5 (NKJV) – ¹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the LORD your God. ³ According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. ⁴ You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I *am* the LORD your God. ⁵ You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD.

In verse 5, the Hebrew actually emphasizes the the idea of “My judgments”

Incest – Leviticus 18:6-18 (NKJV) – ⁶ ‘None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I *am* the LORD. ⁷ The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She *is* your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. ⁸ The nakedness of your father’s wife you shall not uncover; it *is* your father’s nakedness. ⁹ The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, *whether* born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. ¹⁰ The nakedness of your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs *is* your own nakedness. ¹¹ The nakedness of your father’s wife’s daughter, begotten by your father—she *is* your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness. ¹² You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s sister; she *is* near of kin to your father. ¹³ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister, for she *is* near of kin to your mother. ¹⁴ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s brother. You shall not approach his wife; she *is* your aunt. ¹⁵ You shall not uncover the nakedness of

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your daughter-in-law—she *is* your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness. ¹⁶ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it *is* your brother's nakedness. ¹⁷ You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They *are* near of kin to her. It *is* wickedness. ¹⁸ Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

The phrase “near of kin” literally means “flesh of his flesh.” This is similar to the idea in the creation story. Gen. 2:23

Leviticus 18:16 says that a man cannot marry his brother's wife. The Bible provides an exception when there is no son: the Law of the Levirate Marriage (Deut. 25).

Menstrual women – Leviticus 18:19 (NKJV) – ‘Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.

Adultery – Leviticus 18:20 (NKJV) – Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

Molech – Leviticus 18:21 (NKJV) – And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through *the fire* to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I *am* the LORD.

“The remnants of Molech-sacrifices have been found in North Africa, and there is evidence to suggest that it derived from Phoenicia. It has often been supposed that these sacrifices involved the throwing of the children alive into the flames.”

Gordon J. Wenham, The Book of Leviticus, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1979), p. 259.

Homosexuality – Leviticus 18:22 (NKJV) – You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination.

Bestiality - Leviticus 18:23 (NKJV) – Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It *is* perversion.

~ Who does this apply to? ~

Gentile nations (גוים, goyim) – Leviticus 18:24-25 (NKJV) – ²⁴ Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. ²⁵ For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

The Gentile application of this commands is affirmed the Apostles.

Acts 15:28-29 (NKJV) – – ²⁸ For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: ²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality.

Aliens (גָּר, gare) within Israel – Leviticus 18:26 (NKJV) – ²⁶ You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit *any* of these abominations, *either* any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you

Previous inhabitants of the land – Leviticus 18:27 (NKJV) – (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled),

Future Israel in the land – Leviticus 18:28 (NKJV) – lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you.

Everyone – Leviticus 18:29 (NKJV) – For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people.

Israel at the time – Leviticus 18:30 (NKJV) – ‘Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that *you* do not commit *any* of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I *am* the LORD your God.’ ”

~ Reasons for these Laws ~

- 1. The Laws come from God.** Leviticus 18:4 (NKJV) – You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I *am* the LORD your God.
- 2. The Laws lead to life.** Leviticus 18:5 (NKJV) – You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I *am* the LORD.
- 3. The Land will vomit!** Leviticus 18:25, 27-28 (NKJV) – ²⁵ For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants...²⁷ (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who *were* before you, and thus the land is defiled), ²⁸ lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that *were* before you.

Commentary point out that “little attempt is made to justify these rules.”¹ Another commentary says that there “are words of derogation and disgust.”² The word “abomination” appears 5 times in this chapter.

- 4. The violator will be cut off.** Leviticus 18:29 (NKJV) – For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit *them* shall be cut off from among their people.

Conclusion:

When we seek sexual purity, we seek to be like Jesus.

Philippians 3:10-11 (NKJV) – ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

¹ Gordon J. Wenham, The Book of Leviticus, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament, (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1979), p. 252.

² Milgrom, J. (2008). *Leviticus 17–22: a new translation with introduction and commentary* (Vol. 3A, p. 1530). New Haven; London: Yale University Press.