

Leviticus 18 - Sexual Sins

II. Sanctification as a means of walking with God (Lev 18:1—27:34)

(1) Sanctification for the individual Israelite (Lev 18:1—20:26)

(A) Sexuality (Lev 18:1-29)

- (a) Israel to be distinct from the Egyptians and Canaanites (18:1-5)
- (b) Prohibitions against incest (18:6-18)
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Leviticus 18

II. Sanctification as a means of walking with God (Lev 18:1—27:34)

(1) Sanctification for the individual Israelite (Lev 18:1—20:26)

(A) Sexuality (Lev 18:1-29)

- (a) Israel to be distinct from the Egyptians and Canaanites (18:1-5)

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

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1 The LORD told Moses,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'I am the LORD your God.

2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'I am the LORD your God.

2 "Tell the Israelis that I am the LORD your God.

2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, I am the LORD your God.

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.

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.

3 You are not to do what you used to do in the land of Egypt where you lived. You are not to do what Canaan does, where I'm about to bring you, so that you live according to their statutes.

3 After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances.

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

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

4 Obey my ordinances and keep my statutes by living by them. I am the LORD your God.

4 Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God.

5 So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, which, *if* a person follows them, then he will live by them; I am the LORD.

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

5 Keep my statutes and my ordinances, which a person is to obey in order to live in them. I am the LORD.

5 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

(b) Prohibitions against incest (18:6-18)

6 'None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the LORD.

6 'None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am the LORD.

6 "A person is not to approach a near blood relative for sexual relations. I am the LORD.

6 None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD.

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.

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.

7 "Neither your father's nakedness nor your mother's nakedness is to be exposed. She's your mother, so you are not to have sexual relations with her.

7 The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

8 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife; it is your father's nakedness.

8 "You are not to have sexual relations with your father's wife. It's your own father's nakedness.

8 The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness.

9 *As for* the nakedness of your sister, *either* your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, *whether* born in the household or born outside *the household*, you shall not uncover their nakedness.

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.

9 "You are not to have sexual relations with your sister, whether she's your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether she's born in your home or outside your home. You are not to have sexual relations with her.

9 The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover.

10 The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours.

10 The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours.

10 "You are not to have sexual relations with your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter. You are not to have sexual relations with them, because their nakedness is your own nakedness.

10 The nakedness of thy son's daughter, or of thy daughter's daughter, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover: for theirs is thine own nakedness.

11 The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister; you shall not uncover her nakedness.

11 The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

11 "You are not to have sexual relations with the daughter of your father's wife. Born of your father, she's your sister, so you are not to have sexual relations with her.

11 The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

12 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative.

12 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative.

12 "You are not to have sexual relations with your father's sister. She's your father's near blood relative.

12 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman.

13 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative.

13 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative.

13 "You are not to have sexual relations with your mother's sister. She's your mother's near blood relative.

13 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister: for she is thy mother's near kinswoman.

14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.

14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt.

14 "You are not to expose the nakedness of your father's brother by having sexual relations with his wife. She's your aunt.

14 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she is thine aunt.

15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law. She is your son's wife; you shall not uncover her nakedness.

15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

15 "You are not to expose the nakedness of your daughter-in-law. She's the wife of your son. You are not to have sexual relations with her.

15 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy daughter in law: she is thy son's wife; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness.

16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

16 "You are not to have sexual relations with your brother's wife. She's the nakedness of your brother.

16 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife: it is thy brother's nakedness.

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 an outrageous sin.

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.

17 "You are not to have sexual relations with a woman and her daughter. "You are not to have sexual relations with her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter. They're near blood relatives. It's wickedness.

17 Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; for they are her near kinswomen: it is wickedness.

18 And you shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a second wife while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.

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

18 "You are not to marry a woman and then have sexual relations with her sister as a rival when your wife is still alive.

18 Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to vex her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time.

(c) Prohibitions against intercourse during menstruation, adultery, homosexuality, bestiality (18:19-23)

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

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

19 "You are not to approach a menstruating woman to have sexual relations with her.

19 Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is put apart for her uncleanness.

20 And you shall not have sexual intercourse with your neighbor's wife, to be defiled with her.

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

20 "You are not to have sexual relations with your neighbor's wife and thereby become ceremonially unclean with her."

20 Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.

21 You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God; I am the LORD.

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.

21 "You are not to present any of your children to Molech as a sacrifice. That way, you won't defile the name of your God.

I am the LORD."

21 And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

22 You shall not sleep with a male as one sleeps with a female; it is an abomination.

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

22 "You are not to have sexual relations with a male as you would with a woman. It's detestable."

22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

- It has become politically protected in our decadent society, but God condemns it! In both the OT and the NT. There are five passages of Scripture that speak directly to homosexuality (Lev 18:22; 20:13; Rom 1:24-28; 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Tim 1:10).

— Each of the five passages entail a wholesale prohibition of all forms of homosexual sex

Lev 18:22: Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

- The verse prior condemns child sacrifice, and the verse after condemns bestiality.

Nowhere in the context is there an indication that any particular type of homosexual sex act is in view, and no exception is made for loving, consensual homosexual relationships.

- This verse categorically condemns and prohibits all same-sex behavior.

Lev 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.

- Notice that both participants are punished, which indicates that this refers to a consensual act, not coercive.
- Had God been referring to homosexual gang rape, master-slave sodomy, or some other coercive act, only one of the men would have been punished.
- Deut 22:25-26 states that if a man rapes a woman, the aggressor alone is put to death. In this verse, both men are punished because they mutually engage in the act.

Homosexuality

Homosexuality is not prohibited today because of these verses in the Torah. Mosaic Law was written for Israel's Theocracy, which we are no longer under. The point is to show that the attempt to reinterpret the Bible to make allowances for consensual homosexual sex is mistaken. In addition, the prohibition of homosexual sex is carried over into the NT in three of Paul's Epistles.

Rom 1:24-28:

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And 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.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

- Again, a wholesale prohibition of all forms of homosexual sex

- Paul places his comments about same-sex behavior in the context of a creation narrative. He doesn't specify the type of homosexual sex that's in view, but rather points out that all homosexual sex abandons the male-female complementarity God established in the Genesis account.

- Paul calls the exchange of natural male-female partners for the unnatural male-male or female-female partners an "indecent act."

- "men with men" denotes mutual, consensual, non-exploitive, reciprocal affection

1 Cor 6:9: 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,

1 Tim 1:10: For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

23 Also you shall not have sexual 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.

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.

23 "You are not to present yourself to an animal in order to have sexual relations with it and by doing so to defile yourself. A woman is not to present herself to an animal to have sexual relations with it. It's detestable.

23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.

(d) Israel not to imitate the Canaanites or they too will be driven out (18:24-29)

24 'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these things the nations which I am driving out from you have become defiled.

24 '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.

24 "You are not to defile yourselves by doing any of these things, since all of these nations that I'm casting out before you have defiled themselves this way.

24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

25 For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has vomited out its inhabitants.

25 For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants.

25 The land has been defiled, so I brought the punishment of its iniquity to it. As a result, the land is vomiting out its inhabitants.

25 And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.

26 But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments, and you shall not do any of these abominations, *neither* the native, nor the stranger who resides among you

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

26 "Therefore, keep my statutes and ordinances. You are not to do any of these detestable things—this applies to the native born and the resident alien who lives among you—

26 Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you:

27 (for the people of the land who were *there* before you did all these abominations, and the land has become defiled),

27 (for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled);

27 because the inhabitants of the land did all of these detestable things and by doing so defiled the land before you.

27 (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;)

28 so that the land will not vomit you out should you defile it, as it has vomited out the nation which was *there* before you.

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.

28 So you are not to let the land vomit you up because of your uncleanness as it is vomiting the nations that were here before you.

28 That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you.

29 For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people.

29 For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do so shall be cut off from among their people.

29 Anyone who does any of these detestable things—whoever the person⁹ may be—is to be eliminated from contact with his people.

29 For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.

30 So you are to keep your commitment to Me not to practice any of the abominable customs which have been practiced before you, so that you do not defile yourselves with them; I am the LORD your God."

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."

30 Therefore, keep my injunctions so that you won't practice these detestable things that have been done before you, and so that you won't be defiled in them. I am the LORD."

30 Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.