

Leviticus 18 gives us the laws for sexual morality for the nation of Israel. Because they came out of Egypt and were going into Canaan they needed to know how God wanted them to behave toward one another

Leviticus 18:1-5

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,

“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God.

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.

You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God.

You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.

3 times in the opening verses we read "I am the Lord"

This is the basis for all the laws given in chapter 18.

"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. You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them:"

Essentially we cannot establish our sexual mores by looking around or by looking back. We must determine right from wrong by looking up and looking in.

God warns them not to look back at how Egypt behaved or look around at how Canaan behaved. The Egyptians and the Canaanites had sexual mores that would be a violation of the laws and standards of God. They practiced incest, promiscuity, homosexuality, bestiality and other perverse practices. These were to play no part in Israel's society.

Today we are living in a sex charged society where we are surrounded by imagery designed to arouse desire and where people's entire identity is based upon what they determine their sexuality to be. In short we live in a sex-crazed society

We live in a sex-crazed society

Bill Logan – cosmopolitan magazine

“There actually is no "normal" sexual behavior... Nobody has the exact same sex life. No one person is ever normal. No one person needs to be.”

“The amount of sex you have in your 20s shouldn't be based on a statistic. It should be based on your free will, luck, and desire — and nothing more. It should be based on your personal decision about what's right for you — and nobody else.”

- Programs with sexual content average 4.4 scenes per hour.
- On average, music videos contain 93 sexual situations per hour, including 11 hard-core scenes depicting behavior like intercourse and oral sex.
- Between 1998 and 2005, the number of sexual scenes on TV nearly doubled.
- 1 in 5 children will be approached by a sexual predator online
- 15-to 24-year-olds account for nearly half of all STD diagnoses each year.
- Watching a lot of sexual content on TV and listening to sexually explicit music lyrics increase the chances that a teen will have sex at an earlier age.
- 60% of female video game characters are presented in a sexualized fashion.
- The biggest users of online pornography are 12-to 17-year-old boys.

Sadly there are many today who cannot define themselves apart from their sexuality

What has our modern approach to sexuality cost us?

Marriage:

(American psychology association)

“Marriage and divorce are both common experiences. In Western cultures, more than 90 percent of people marry by age 50.

Healthy marriages are good for couples' mental and physical health.

They are also good for children; growing up in a happy home protects children from mental, physical, educational and social problems.

However, about 40 to 50 percent of married couples in the United States divorce.

The divorce rate for subsequent marriages is even higher.”

Sexually active teens

15% of all 15 year olds have had sex; 8% report being sexually active
29% of all 16 year olds have had sex; 17% report being sexually active
39% of all 17 year olds have had sex; 30% report being sexually active
82% of teens surveyed feel that teens should not be sexually active
72% of teens surveyed agreed that teens that are sexually active should have access to birth control
73% of teens surveyed feel that being a virgin should not be embarrassing
58% of teens surveyed feel that high-school age teens should not be sexually active
67% of teens surveyed who have had sex wish that they had waited (60 percent of boys and 77 percent of girls)

Teen pregnancy

In 2014, there were 249,078 babies born to 15-19 year old girls. Nearly eighty-nine percent of these births occurred outside of marriage (hhs.gov)

One in six (17 percent) births were to females who already had one or more babies

Costs of Teen Pregnancy: Social, Economical, and Educational (

- \$9.4 billion tax dollars were spent on teen pregnancy and childbirth in 2010
- Only 50% of teen mothers age 15-19 earn a high school diploma
- Only 38% of teen mothers age 15-17 earn a high school diploma
- By age 30, only 1.5 percent of women who had pregnancies as a teenager have a college degree
- 80 percent of unmarried teen mothers end up on welfare
- The daughters of teen mothers are 22 percent more likely than their peers to become teen mothers
- Sons of teenage mothers have a 13 percent greater chance of ending up in prison as compared to their peers

STDs

US news and world report

“More than 110 million men and women in the United States have a sexually transmitted infection.”

STDs are a substantial health challenge facing the United States. CDC estimates that nearly 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur every year in this country, half among young people aged 15–24, and account for almost \$16 billion in health care costs.

- Florida's Seminole County Health Department has reported a 200% rise in Syphilis cases within the last year. Chlamydia, too, is on the rise, with three to four million new cases occurring each year.
The increase in STD rates has been attributed, at least in some part, to “using social media to arrange casual and often anonymous sexual encounters.”
(See more at: <http://www.socialmediatoday.com>)
- While anyone can become infected with an STD, certain groups, including young people and gay and bisexual men, are at greatest risk.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) have been rising among gay and bisexual men, with increases in syphilis being seen across the country. In 2013, gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men accounted for 75% of primary and secondary syphilis cases in the United States. Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men often get other STDs, including chlamydia and gonorrhea infections. HPV (Human papillomavirus), the most common STD in the United States, is also a concern for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men.

The data indicate that rates of HIV infection among gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) are more than 44 times higher than rates among heterosexual men and more than 40 times higher than women

Read more at bilerico.com

(According to bilerico.com, they are “the web's largest LGBTQ group blog with dozens of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and genderqueer contributors. Known for intelligent political and cultural commentary, the site's carefully selected contributors have helped to shape the LGBT movement for years - both on and off line.)

Abortion

Number of abortions

Worldwide

Number of abortions per year: approximately **42 million**

Number of abortions per day: approximately **115,000**

US

Number of abortions per year: **1.21 million** (2005)

Number of abortions per day: approximately **3,315**

Why women have abortions

- 1% of all abortions occur because of rape or incest;
- 6% of abortions occur because of potential health problems with either the mother or the child;
- 93% of all abortions occur for social reasons (that is, the child is unwanted or inconvenient).

Molestation

According to childmolestationprevention.org

There are at least 3 million Americans who have been molested before their 13th birthday. This is mostly by family members

3/4 of the violent victimizations of children took place in either the victim's home or the offender's home.

A 2005 study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, on San Diego Kaiser Permanente HMO members, reported that 16% of males were sexually abused by the age of 18

Men who've had such experiences are at much greater risk than those who haven't for serious mental health problems, including:

- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.1,2,8
- Alcoholism and drug abuse.1,9
- Suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts.1,9
- Problems in intimate relationships.1,10
- Underachievement at school and at work.1,10

It is clear that that sexual mores of today are creating devastating problems in our world. Perhaps a fresh look at the standards of God would bring about some positive change.

In light of that we are going to take a careful look at Leviticus 18-20 and see if we can establish God's plan for our sexuality

Leviticus 18:5

You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.

Clearly the world's model is not working. God is providing guidelines for sexuality that are for the best interest of the individual and society as a whole. Remember see are the laws that would govern a nation.

Critics of the Bible suggest that the teachings of Leviticus are archaic and have no place in the modern world. These objections are unwarranted and false because

There is perhaps no more contemporary issue on the planet that the proper guidelines for sex and sexuality

- It is the number one subject of tv, movies and music.
- It infiltrates all areas of social media
- It is estimated that the porn industry in the US is more than a 10billion dollar business

The New Testament forbids the same actions that are forbidden here

What are the rules laid out for proper sexual relations?

Essentially Moses gives 6 principles to govern proper sexual activity

Leviticus 18:6

“None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the Lord.

Incest is forbidden

This would solve the problems of molestation. Most incidents of molestation happen within the home

This was a problem in the New Testament when the church in Corinth refused to

deal with the sin of two of its members.

1 Corinthians 5:1

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!

This man was in direct violation of Leviticus 18:7-8

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.

1 Corinthians 5:5

Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Paul instructs the church, not to tolerate their sinful behavior but to remove them from fellowship until they repent of their actions

1 Corinthians 5:6-7

Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

The reason for this is that for the church to remain powerful the church must remain pure.

1 Corinthians 5:11

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

Paul adds an addendum that he is not talking about the unbeliever.

We expect the world to sin, because they do not know the Lord. But we also expect those who know Christ to live accordingly

Leviticus 18:19

“Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.

This puts value upon the woman and sex is more than fulfilling a man's drives.

1 Corinthians 7:3-4

Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.

The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

Leviticus 18:20

Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

Adultery is forbidden.

Adultery - voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not his or her spouse

This violates the 7th commandment

Exodus 20:14

“You shall not commit adultery.

New Testament actually has a higher standard than the old.

Matthew 5:27-29

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Leviticus 18:21

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.

MOLECH

This is repeated in Leviticus 20:2–5 where the consequences are given

“Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives *any* of his descendants to Molech, **he shall surely be put to death**. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. **3** I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given *some* of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name.

4 And if the people of the land should in any way **hide their eyes** from the man, when he gives *some* of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him, then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and **I will cut him off** from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech

We see that the penalty for those who have their sons pass through the fires of Molech will be put to death and those who turn a blind eye to the practice will be cut off from the camp and from fellowship with the Lord

Molech was a Canaanite god who was worshipped through human sacrifice. Children were offered to appease the deity.

According to Harper's bible dictionary

Children were dedicated (‘passed over’) and burned to Molech at the Tophet in the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem.

Sadly this Canaanite practice became very commonplace in Israel

2 Kings 16:3 – Ahaz introduced worship of Molech in Judah

3 but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even burned his son as an offering, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

2 Kings 23:10 Josiah destroyed the altars so worship of Molech could not be practiced

10 And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.

Even after reforms the practice continued and just as God promised He vomited Israel from the Land

Jeremiah 7:31

31 And 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, nor did it come into my mind.

Jeremiah 32:35

35 They built the high places of Baal in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and daughters to Molech, though I did not command them, nor did it enter into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

It seems that Molech was worshipped as a means to deal with unwanted consequences of sexual promiscuity

Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Homosexuality is forbidden

This is a hot topic today.

People lose their jobs, sports figures lose endorsements, teachers and professionals must undergo sensitivity training if ever a word is mentioned against homosexuality.

The bible clearly teaches it is sinful.

Leviticus 18:22

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

Leviticus 20:13

If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

Romans 1:26-27

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will

inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 1:8-9

But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,

We also have two references to homosexual actions being judged in the narrative of the Old Testament

Genesis 19:5

And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

Judges 19:22

As they were enjoying themselves, suddenly certain men of the city, perverted men, surrounded the house and beat on the door. They spoke to the master of the house, the old man, saying, "Bring out the man who came to your house, that we may know him carnally!"

And the foundation of the argument against sexual sin here in Leviticus is that it is the reason for the Canaanites being driven out of the land

It is not however the only nor most prevalent of sexual sin.

Adultery, fornication and list are much more prevalent. This however does not make homosexuality less of a sin.

All must be laid down

As believers we cannot define ourselves by our sexuality but by the fact that we have laid our lives down as followers of Jesus

Also as believers we cannot see homosexuals as worse sinners than others. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory and all can be redeemed at the cross

Leviticus 18:23

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.

Bestiality is forbidden

Leviticus 18:24-25

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.

For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

Genesis 15 explains that the reason the Canaanites were expelled from the Land was their sinful practices. Here we find that the specific sin that caused the judgment was sexual

Sexual sin was the reason for Canaan undergoing the judgment of God

We have a New Testament parallel that we must point out. Jesus said He would vomit us out if we did not repent

That understanding of that passage is here in lev 18