

Message #33

Leviticus 18:1-30

One writer observed: “The Victorians pretended sex did not exist; the moderns pretend nothing else exists.” When we come to Leviticus 18, we immediately see that there is nothing new about any kind of sexual perversion.

Now there are two restrictions placed on Israel which are not specifically placed on us, which really necessitated these instructions:

(Restriction #1) - Israel was not allowed to intermarry with foreigners. Deut. 7:3

(Restriction #2) - Israel was to marry, if possible, within a tribe so not to lose land.
Num. 36:3-4

HOLINESS, IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, DEMANDS THAT HIS PEOPLE DO NOT INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN THINGS THAT ARE SEXUALLY ABOMINABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

It is possible that, in light of **verse 3**, that some of the children of Israel had, at one time, been guilty of some of the things on the list. However, since the blood had cleansed them they were never to be involved in these things anymore.

SEGMENT #1 – God demands that His people completely obey His Word in regard to sexuality. **18:1-5**

Time and time again in these verses God stresses that I am God and you are to obey Me (**18:1-2, 4, 5**). Now, I particularly want you to notice to whom this instruction concerning sex is aimed—**verse 2** “the sons of Israel.” It is not aimed at the godless, immoral world.

Verse 3 gives us an interesting principle; namely, we are not to sexually engage in things the rest of the world thinks are okay. Just because others do it doesn’t mean we do. There is nothing that will kill your marriage, your spirituality and perhaps even your health as quickly as sexual immorality.

SEGMENT #2 – God commands that His people not engage in sexually perverse and abominable things. **18:6-23**

There are several things that God specifically classifies as being abominable and many of the things are incestuous kinds of things—two people who are closely related. The Hebrew words “uncover the nakedness” is a euphemism which means to have sexual relations.

(Abomination #1) – It is an abomination to God to have sex with any close relative. **18:6**

(Abomination #2) – It is an abomination to God to have sex with one’s own mother. **18:7**

(Abomination #3) – It is an abomination to God to have sex with one’s step-mother. **18:8**

(Abomination #4) – It is an abomination to God to have sex with one’s sister. **18:9a**

- (Abomination #5)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with one’s step-sister. **18:9b**
(Either father’s daughter or mother’s daughter)
- (Abomination #6)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with one’s granddaughter. **18:10**
(Either son’s daughter or daughter’s daughter)
- (Abomination #7)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with your stepmother’s daughter.
18:11
- (Abomination #8)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with any aunt. **18:12-13**
(Either father’s side–paternal aunt or mother’s side–maternal aunt)
- (Abomination #9)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with your uncle’s wife. **18:14**
- (Abomination #10)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with your son’s wife. **18:15**
(Your daughter-in-law)
- (Abomination #11)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with your brother’s wife. **18:16**
- (Abomination #12)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with a mother and her daughter or
with a mother and her granddaughters. **18:17**
(The word “lewd” means this is a very wicked thing in God’s sight.)
- (Abomination #13)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with or marry two sisters.
18:18
- (Abomination #14)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with a woman during her
menstrual period. **18:19**
- (Abomination #15)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with your neighbor’s wife.
18:20
- (Abomination #16)** – It is an abomination to God to promote sexual immorality with your
children. **18:21**
- (Abomination #17)** – It is an abomination to God to have homosexual sex with a member of the
same sex. **18:22**
- (Abomination #18)** – It is an abomination to God to have sex with an animal. **18:23**

SEGMENT #3 – God warns against doing any of these perverse things. **18:24-30**

(Reason #1) – It defiles you in God’s sight. **18:24a**

(Reason #2) – It is the reason God destroys godless nations. **18:24b-25**

(Reason #3) – God’s people are to obey God and promote God’s ways to all. **18:26**

(Reason #4) – It defiles the place you live and the place to worship God. **18:27**

(Reason #5) – It can bring about God’s judgment against God’s people. **18:28-29**

(Reason #6) – Because God says we are not to do these things and He is the LORD God.
18:30

PARTING THOUGHTS:

1. Sexual purity in God's sight has to do with who we are physically intimate with, not what we are physically doing with our mate. The marriage bed is undefiled (Heb. 13:4).
2. Our personal holiness is connected to our personal sexuality.
3. As we near the end of the age, sexual perversion and activity will intensify (II Tim. 3:3-4).
4. If we have been guilty of any of these things—confess it and repent of it and receive cleansing.
5. God's blessings are directly linked to what we are doing sexually.