

Leviticus 15
What about Sex Makes Us Unclean?
June 2, 2013
Sermon Outline

Notes:

I. Introduction

- A. Children's Sermon: When Your Life Began...
- B. Today's Questions:
 1. What about these bodily emissions & discharges made an Israelite unclean?
 2. What would Israel have learned from these laws?
 3. What is God trying to teach us?

II. Bodily Emissions & Discharges

A. Chiasmus Structure

- a chronic/abnormal male discharges (15:2–15)
- b normal male discharges (15:16–18)
- b' normal menstrual discharges (15:19–24)
- a' chronic/abnormal female discharges (15:25–30)

[Read Leviticus 15:1–33]

- B. Chronic/Abnormal Emissions & Discharges
 1. Dis-Ease has No Place in Heaven
 2. Atonement

Leviticus 15:13–15

¹³ “...count for himself **seven days** for his cleansing, and wash his clothes. And he shall bathe his body in fresh water and shall be clean. ¹⁴ And on the **eighth day** he shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons ... ¹⁵ And the priest shall use them, **one for a sin offering** and **the other for a burnt offering**. And the priest shall make **atonement** for him before the Lord for his discharge. ... (Cf. 28-30 for women; washing not explicit)

- 3. Cleansed (not “forgiven”)

Leviticus 4:31b (Sin/Purification Offering)

...And the priest shall make atonement for him, **and he shall be forgiven**.

C. Lesson for Israel Very Similar to 12 & 13-14

Leviticus 15:31

³¹ “Thus you shall keep the people of Israel separate from their uncleanness, *lest they die* in their uncleanness *by defiling my tabernacle* that is in their midst.”

Numbers 5:2–3

² “Command the people of Israel that they **put out of the camp** everyone who is leprous or *has a discharge* and everyone who is unclean through contact with the dead. ³ You shall put out both male and female, putting them outside the camp, that they may not defile their camp, in the midst of which I dwell.”

1. Death and dis-ease have no place in Heaven
2. The way God provided for cleansing involved both healing & the death of a substitute
3. This ritual cleansing points to a future cleansing

C. Normal Emissions & Discharges

1. Men's emissions

Leviticus 15:16–18

¹⁶ “**If a man has an emission of semen, he shall bathe his whole body** in water and *be unclean until the evening.* ¹⁷ And every garment...

¹⁸ **If a man lies with a woman** and has an emission of semen, *both of them shall bathe...*

2. Women's discharges

Leviticus 15:19–24

¹⁹ “**When a woman has a discharge**, and the discharge *in her body is blood*, she shall be in her menstrual impurity for *seven days*, and whoever touches her shall be unclean until the evening. ... ²¹ And whoever touches her bed shall *wash his clothes*

and bathe himself in water and be unclean until the evening. ...

²⁴ And if any man lies with her and her menstrual impurity comes upon him (Cf. 18:19; 20:18), he shall be unclean **seven days**, and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean.

- D. Why would the emission of semen make them unclean?
1. Sex has no place in heaven
 2. Set them apart (fertility cults...)

III. Jesus Supplies what the Law Lacks (Life!)

- A. Jesus Overcomes Death with His Life!

Matthew 9:20–22

²⁰ And behold, a woman who had suffered from a **discharge of blood** for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment,²¹ for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.”²² Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

- B. Jesus is Our Life! (How are we to view sex as Christians?)
1. Sex is **not** our life (The danger of Idolatry)

1 Corinthians 7:1–5

¹ Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man **not to have sexual relations** with a woman.”² But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.³ The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband.

- a. Wanting a good thing too much (sex in marriage)
- b. Despising authority (2 Peter 2:10; pornography)

2. Marriage (and sex) are temporary

Luke 20:34–36

³⁴ And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage,³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead **neither marry nor are given in marriage**,³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

3. Jesus is Our Eternal Husband

Ephesians 5:25–33

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,³⁰ because we are members of his body.³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”³² **This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Key Idea

Our union with Jesus through the gospel promises overcomes the corrupting effects of sin and imparts to us an intimacy with God that far outstrips any of his good gifts in this life. (Including sexual relations between a husband and a wife)