

## Uncovering Sister's Nakedness

Leviticus 18, 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. 'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the Lord. 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. The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness. 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. The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness. The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father—she is your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. 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. Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive. 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her. 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. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. 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. '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. 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 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. '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.' "

Heavenly Father, we pray this morning that You would open our hearts and minds to hear Your word. Lord, we pray that Dan would be a mouthpiece for You, that You would give him wisdom and discernment, that You would enable Your Holy Spirit to speak truth to us through him. Lord, we pray that You would soften our hearts to see where we hide our sin, where we keep other's sin in the darkness. Lord we pray that Your truth would be heard here, that You would bring sin into the light, that You would remove sin from our midst, that we would bring it to light so that we could enjoy the mercy and grace of Your salvation. Lord we ask this in Your Son's name, amen.

So as we consider this topic this morning, I think it's really important for us to start with recognizing that it's God's mercy when sin is revealed. It's easy when we see sin and we say we have to deal with sin and the problems of dealing with sin it's really easy to not see it as God's mercy, but to see it as a bad thing. One of the great mercies of God is that He shines light on sin so that the sin is constrained. Even as we talk about this particular sin, we need to recognize this is an incredibly widespread sin. The estimates are between 15-30% of all households have this sin in them so this isn't rare. This is a widespread sin and God in His mercy has caused it to be seen in our midst so that we can deal with it and so that others can fear because that's why you judge, so that others fear because God is a God that causes the hidden things to be made known. The things you think no one will ever do anything or catch you, that's not what God does, He brings them to light. We should recognize too the bigger your family, the easier it is for this sin to be present, especially the wider age range that you have between an older son and a younger daughter, the greater this chance that this sin can happen because it's not unbelievers that seek sin, it's the mercy of God that constrains them. The more age discrepancy, the easier it is for the older child to exercise authority over the younger daughter and it's almost always sons with daughters or father's with daughters, almost always. We should recognize that when we think about the uncovering of nakedness, let's use the biblical term because there is a huge advantage to using the biblical term, it is an incredibly wise term, the uncovering of the nakedness. We think, and none of this diminishes the importance of the Biblical commandment to be fruitful and multiply, we are commanded to be fruitful and multiply so we can't sit back and say we shouldn't have large families. No, that's a commandment of God, but that means we need to recognize the risks and we need to manage the risks, but we shouldn't be surprised when it happens. If you look at the world, understand how powerful the sexual drive is, how many problems it causes, how much destruction it brings into the world. God parallels idolatry with adultery and with fornication and these are the two sins that people are most compelled to do. They're the most compelled to replace God with another god, to do it spiritually and to physically satisfy their lust of the flesh. These are the great drivers of the unbeliever and we need to recognize that we shouldn't be surprised that we see those drivers in unbelieving children. Why wouldn't we? We should expect it, it is the nature of a heart of stone. So when God in His mercy exposes evil, we should be thankful for His mercy. Remember the context of even where this confession came about, it was during the sermon on the plague of darkness and how light will overcome darkness. It's a blessing when that happens, it is not a curse, it is a tremendous blessing when that happens and it means that we're to remember that we are the light of the world. When we see unconstrained sin around us

and we see lots of unconstrained sin around us in the world, we need to understand that the constraint of sin is light and we're the light of the world. God in His mercy caused the light of His word to expose the hidden works of darkness, this is what God has given us His word to do. So why do I take time on Sunday morning instead of doing our usual verse by verse exposition, why we take the time to talk about this subject on a Sunday morning is because of Matthew 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." The church isn't supposed to be about the business of hiding sin, the church is about the business of exposing sin, that's why we are created, that's why the church is the light of the world, to expose the hidden works of darkness. Light is one of the best constraints of evil. John 3:20, "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed." That's why we are supposed to be light, is because it will stop the exposure of evil or it will cause the evil to flee from the light. Many churches think we are being merciful when we cover up sin that's being found in the church. I've heard so often the argument that it brings shame on the name of Christ when there is sin in the church, but if you look at Christ's ministry, His ministry was exactly the opposite of that. Why did they kill Him? Why did they crucify Christ? Why did the Jews put Him to death? For one reason, He exposed their evil deeds. That's why they put Him to death so when the church goes, 'Oh it brings shame to the name of Christ to expose sin', no, that is the name of Christ, that is His reputation, that is what He does. What brings shame on the name of Christ is to cover sin, to hide sin. When Jesus Christ walked to the Pharisees and He said, 'Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees you hypocrites', is He exposing sin or is He hiding sin? Remember, these are the religious leaders of the day, this is the priesthood, these are the people everyone is looking to as the leaders and faithful ones and Jesus Christ comes and exposes their sin. It is not against Christ to expose sin, it is against Christ to hide sin. So often people use the excuse of 'this will bring shame on it', you look at these pastors that fall when they get their sin exposed, how many times have people known about it for years, sometimes in the case of decades, and never said anything because they say this ministry is so important, this ministry is so necessary, we just can't let it fold so we let this sin continue. No, the last two or three years this has happened in so many big churches with big congregations where people knew about it for a long time and they said they were not going to expose it. I want to say, that is not being Christlike, that is the opposite of being Christlike. Matthew 23:13-15, "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves." When we don't expose sin, we're being hypocrites and hypocrites produce greater hypocrisy. The fruit of hypocrisy is greater hypocrisy. The fruit of walking in the light is a reduction in sin. When you expose hidden works of darkness, they flee. When you act like a hypocrite and you hide the sin and you allow them to look like holy men of God, what happens to the sin? It just increases and increases and increases. What Christ did was say, 'I'm going to expose it' and that's why He died, that's why they said they must kill Him. He exposed the

hypocrisy of how they kept the Sabbath, He exposed the hypocrisy of their leaders, He exposed hypocrisy when He tells all the people they were just seeking bread, they weren't seeking God. They want to kill Him. Let's make sure we are doing the work of Christ. We are not being cruel to expose sin, we are being merciful when sin is exposed. Paul commands us in Ephesians 5:8-13, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light." This is what He does to everyone that is saved, He takes them from being in darkness to being the light. This is what we are to do, this is what it means to be a child of light, is that darkness, sin, gets exposed by the children of light. This is the nature of what children of light are. When we're not exposing the hidden works of darkness, when instead we are hiding the hidden works of darkness, it is because we are a child of darkness and not a child of light. That's really important to recognize because Paul goes on, "For it is shameful...for whatever makes manifest is light." Whatever makes manifest is light, so what are the children of God, those who God has made light, what do they do? They make things manifest, they don't hide them, they don't let sin run rampant, they expose sin. That is what it means to be a child of light. When God saves someone, He makes them a child of light and inherent in being a child of light is that they cause sin to be exposed. Why do you think Jesus Christ said, 'They hated Me when I was in the world and they will hate you if you follow Me'? They hated the light that came in the world and they hated the light that's in the world. Why do they hate the light that's in the world? Because if you are a child of light, you will manifest evil, you will expose it, you will cause it to be seen. This is inherent to being a Christian, this is not a side thing, this is inherent to being a Christian. Whatever makes manifest is light. If you have been made light, if God has taken your heart of stone and given you a heart of flesh, this is your nature. So that's why we're doing this sermon this morning, is because you expose the hidden works of darkness so other people flee, other people are afraid. It's not out of vengeance, 'vengeance is mine says the Lord', that's not the point, the point is if you don't talk about these things, if you don't expose these things you get more of these things. Exposing them causes other people to see that there's a real cost, there's a real cost to sin. It causes other people to consider their practices, how do they constrain the unbelievers in their home? It causes those who are sinned against to realize and recognize when they are being sinned against. As a church, we need to be willing even when it's painful, to shine light in dark places because it's by shining light in dark places that the church grows and matures. It's that picture from Daniel about how the kingdom of God was established, and it will grow, this rock that was cut without hands will fill the whole earth and destroy all the kingdoms of the earth. It doesn't do that with the sword, it does that with the preaching of the word, it does that with exposing the hidden works of darkness through the word of God, that's what the church is to do, that's what we're to do as a church of Jesus Christ. So I'm not going to preach through Leviticus 18, I think in two or three years when we get here I will spend four weeks or so on it, but right now I want to just touch on some verses that are specific to what's going on here. Remember the giving of the law in Exodus 20, which this is shortly after. You have Mount Sinai and you have this cloud at the top and they see the lightning and thunderings, they feel the earthquake. They look at that cloud and they are about to walk up into the cloud

and God says to put a boundary around them lest anyone who crosses it will die and all of Israel is filled with fear. A group of elders go up with Moses and Joshua and as they are walking up the elders all chicken out, that's what we find out in Deuteronomy, they say it's too scary, you go and find out what God has for us to command. They all go to the bottom of Mount Sinai, with the lightning and earthquake and all these things causing them terror and what do they do? They start fornicating. Aaron makes the golden calf and they start fornicating while they see the lightning, while they see the thunder, while they feel the earthquakes. As we read this, understand the context of this, these are people who were the people of God, they were the people who were just delivered a couple months before from Egypt and yet even with a manifestation of the power of God before their eyes, they still turn and start sinning in this manner. So let's not lie to ourselves and pretend like it can't happen here, don't lie to yourself and pretend like it can't happen in your household. It's not true, it can't, it's by the constraint of God, it's by the mercy of God and the light shining in dark places that this is constrained. It wasn't constrained in Israel. When they left and later it wasn't constrained in Israel because He said that's why He vomited them out of the land later. In Galatians it talks about how the Pharisees were adulterers. Remember, in the midst of seeing that, seeing the glory of the Lord, they still rebel in that way and remember what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10, how God gave us this for an example, because they were unbelievers that even with that manifestation of the power of God, they still sin, their sin still wasn't constrained. Don't think it can't happen in the church, it happens in the church all the time. The question is, what does the church do about it? Remember, this isn't just that they see the power of God, remember that this is a few months after these plagues. We've been going through the plagues of Exodus and remember the destruction and how for three days with the plague of darkness people were so frightened they couldn't even stand up for three days, they didn't even rise up for three days. They saw this terror, they saw this destruction that God could do and they still went and sinned. Don't ignore the power of sin, don't think that your sweet little children would never do this. It's not true. If they have a heart of stone, it's only by constraint that they don't do it. Don't deceive yourself about the power of the sin, especially for a young man going through puberty. All of a sudden desires come upon them that they don't understand, don't know how to deal with, that they don't know how to control, and it's really easy to look at them and think they are still a boy instead of an unconstrained man. That happens all the time. It's so easy when you remember your two year old and your five year old and your eight year old and think of them in that context and all of a sudden they become a man in your household and you don't think of them as a man in your household. They're not acting like a man because they're still thinking of themselves as a little boy and all of a sudden these desires come upon them. Don't think that it can't happen in your household. Mothers, I want to talk specifically to you. The reason I want to talk specifically to you is because most of the men in this room, probably all of them, already understand this so I don't need to say it to them. Do not deceive yourself about the power of images for men. It's completely different than it is for women and here's my argument, there's no male lingerie. Do no kid yourselves mothers, do not kid yourself about the power of images of nakedness for men, it is far more powerful than you understand and all of a sudden you have that thirteen year old who has those hormones kicking into their bloodstream. This is how God propagates the world because of the power of it, and all of a sudden it comes upon that young man and if you're not thinking about how powerful those images are, you're going to miss it and it's going to cause

destruction in your household at some level. That strong desire will come upon your son's and unless they have truly believed and truly repented, they are a slave of sin and it is sin and they are a slave and it is their master and they're going to do things as the slave of it's master. They're going to do things that they never would have considered doing before and they're going to imagine things they never would have thought they would imagine before. Mothers, you need to understand that you don't understand. You need to understand that you don't understand the level of power that images have over men. It's going to come upon your sons when you're thinking of them as a little boy. So Moses is giving this message from God. Leviticus 18:4, "You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God." Remember this happened just after they fornicated. Remember Moses knows who these people are, God knows who these people are. He's not giving these commandments to people He thinks are faithful, He knows they are not, but these commands are for everybody. They are for this unbelieving son or daughter in your household, that's who Moses is giving these commandments to, he's giving them to a bunch of unbelievers. Verse 6 says, 'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the Lord.' You know, as Roger was reading this, we hear the term 'nakedness' over and over again. It's easy for adults who have an understanding of sexual matters to think that he's using this as a euphemism for sexual immorality, for fornication. I think God is a lot wiser than that, He's a lot smarter than that, He's giving us commands that a two year old can understand. You don't need to understand all kinds of things about fornication, you can understand 'do not uncover their nakedness'. God is doing it in such a way that you don't need to do anything but awake something before it's time. You can explain nakedness to a two year old. How you treat nakedness in your house is setting yourself up for either to be protected or setting yourself up for destruction. We know how God treats it, in a sense He gave it to man in Genesis 3:7, "Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings." They understood that when they are in the presence of God it's shameful to be naked so they make themselves cover. That term 'covering' is a terrible translation, it literally means 'waist'. They made loincloths is what it literally is saying, all they did was make loincloths. They weren't that ashamed of their nakedness, there was some shame, but they weren't that ashamed. Now let's go down to see how God treats it later in that same passage in 3:21, "Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them." That word 'tunic' here doesn't mean something that comes from the waist, it means something that covers. You wear a belt over a tunic, a tunic is a robe. You can gird up a tunic and the girding up is that you tie the robe and you tuck it into your belt. This is not a little covering, a loincloth, this is that they were covered from head to foot. That's how God treats nakedness, how do you treat nakedness in your house? Sinners will always think nudity is fine. Go to the beach, they will always think nudity is fine, but God says they should be covered from head to foot. When you have that baby that's born in your household that has that heart of stone, they are always going to think nakedness is fine. It is you that has to train them that nakedness is not acceptable, that they have to be covered. If you don't treat nudity seriously in your household, it will go places that you never expect, that you never think it will go. You know? It can be easier to spank a child if you pull down their diaper, but you should seriously consider who is there, why you're doing it, is there a way to do it some other way? You should escalate the idea of covering, this is what God did for His children, you should make sure your

children are covered. There are obviously times when they soil themselves you have to clean them up, nakedness is required, but you should be thinking how do I minimize the times that there is nakedness in my household? If you treat nakedness as a light thing it will have an effect when that young man all of a sudden has those hormones pouring on as a fire in his belly with a desire for images, it will have an impact. And again, you can explain nakedness to your two year old daughter. I see people in the church all the time, 'No, you can't lift up your skirt', this is really important though, don't diminish the importance of saying that to a two year old because that's usually the age when you start teaching it and think what God is saying, He is saying something you can teach to a two year old can be a protection against the wickedness that destroys cultures and destroys societies. Nakedness is wrong except for very limited, specific purposes. I would limit it to cleaning and for health reasons, and that's pretty much it. Leviticus 18:9, "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." A young man is not to uncover his sister's nakedness and again, it's important for you to understand this is a lot more likely to happen with boys than with girls. It does, but usually there's so much other perversion that's happened before it where a girl does this to a boy. No, this starts with a boy and a girl in most cases. We need to understand how much more prevalent that it is, the drive to uncover a girl's nakedness can be quite strong. Consider the books that you have in your house. After these things came to light someone living in my house pointed out books that I had that I had no idea that there would be anything in there enticing. He said, no, here's two books and you should really consider whether you have them there. One book was a book on drawings, you think it's innocent and one was a book on historical pictures from a national magazine. When that desire comes upon a thirteen or fourteen of whatever age they go through puberty, they are going to go through everything in your house to seek it out and find it. It's a powerful enough of a motivator that Israel would fornicate in the presence of God. One of the points someone made to me was, 'Young boys will be able to look and say that book probably has something in it. They're not going to have to look through every book and say to look through Calvin's commentaries to see if there is something there that will be enticing.' They will scan a book on drawings because a lot of times people draw nudes. Make sure you are thinking about that, make sure you are thinking about the power of images to a young man. I never looked at the two in detail, I still haven't, but I believe that what I was told is true. Verse 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." He has uncovered his sister's nakedness, he shall bear his guilt. It's very clear here, the law in NC like it is in most states, but unfortunately I've had to deal with these kinds of situations before so I'm very familiar with the law in NC, just seeing nakedness, if you uncover your sister's body there is not much criminal penalty to it. It gets a lot worse with more that you do, but it's all about these acts that you do. God says it starts right at the beginning, it's become sin, it's become worthy of death from the beginning, as soon as you uncover her nakedness it is worthy of death. That cut-off, that's the same word that's used when Abraham, when God is going to pass through the animals and Abraham cuts the animals in half and lays them there when God makes the covenant with Abraham. This is not separating from them, this is cutting them in two. That's what the word means and you see it really clearly in Exodus 1:14, "And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the

field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.” That’s the same word, you put to death, you are cut off. There are two terms for the same idea, that’s what is supposed to happen. This is the seriousness of the sin. God is saying it’s a death penalty offense. It’s important when we think about that, even the sin of uncovering the nakedness because you desire to see the nakedness of your sister, that’s worth of death. We need to understand when we don’t treat it that way, what happens. We need to see what Paul says in 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.” We all pray for the two men in prison and we all know about that household, the father did nothing and it went through the whole house and caused destruction. It caused a whole lot of destruction and a bunch of brothers went to prison. That’s what happens and as Christians we are the light of the world and we expose the hidden works of darkness. If instead what you do is cover the hidden works of darkness, you know what you are trying to do, you’re trying to get more darkness. That is what happens. If you take your lump of bread and you put it out in the sunlight, it doesn’t rise. What do you do? You put some kind of covering over it so that it will rise because leaven stops when it’s exposed to sunlight. God ordered the world so that we could understand the way you want to stop leaven growing in your household is you expose it to the light. It can be painful to expose it to the light, I’m sure this sermon is painful for some people here, but it’s better than the alternative because the alternative is that it continues to grow because that is what happens. It either dies or it continues to grow and get bigger, the nature of sin is that it expands to fill the whole lump. God understands that these things that may not seem as serious, they only go in one direction, they get more and more serious. When God in His mercy exposes it, we need to be zealous about dealing with it to make certain the sin doesn’t keep growing. God says to kill the brother and the sister. When the sister starts to desire to see the nakedness of her brother, she is also worthy of death. Deuteronomy 13:8, is about a different death penalty offense, it says, “You shall not consent to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him or conceal him.” If you do, this brings destruction upon you. Understand it’s so easy for us to overlook sin and pretend like it’s not going to expand, but we all know better, you are either killing sin or sin is killing you. It’s also important for us to understand God also appoints a punishment for the father and for the family. If a girl in that household had secret relations with a man that didn’t tell her father about it, even if it was her brother, when she goes and gets married, in Deuteronomy 22:20-21, “But if the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman, then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel, to play the harlot in her father’s house. So you shall put away the evil from among you.” It’s worthy of taking the young woman and putting her in front of her father’s house so everyone says the father failed. Every father in this room should say, I have a responsibility to protect my daughter and this is how serious it is, God wants to put a mark on you if you fail so everyone in the society says that you’re the guy that didn’t protect his daughter. That’s what happens, everyone would know that that’s the house that the daughter got stoned because she played the harlot in Israel and that’s her father’s house. You have a serious responsibility and the responsibility goes further than that, Leviticus 18:24-28, “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. 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 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you.” God is writing this about the Canaanites, He’s writing this before they go into the Promised Land and He’s telling them why they get the Promised Land, why they get that nation, why they have that area that’s been designated to them. It was because God is saying the land will vomit out the Canaanites because they said these things were acceptable. Remember the Canaanites, these were people that had no revelation of God, they had none of God’s word and they were still supposed to understand that uncovering your sister’s nakedness is evil. God is just in His dealings with the Canaanites when He says you should put a sword to every one of those seven tribes, even a nursing infant should be killed. God is not unjust when He does that, He is saying that this is how serious it is, this is how serious that these sins are accepted among them. How much do you expect God to think it’s just for those who have His word, to punish them. It’s not just the young man that deserves the punishment. If society doesn’t deal with it, it deserves to be destroyed. Deuteronomy 7:1-5, “When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.” If we don’t deal with it, it will spread in the church. The Israelites didn’t do this and what happens? They have all the same sins in Israel and then the Assyrians come in and destroy the Northern Kingdom and what does the Southern Kingdom do? It has all the same sins and then Jesus Christ comes and exposes them and they kill Jesus Christ. Understand if you don’t deal with the sin, if you don’t take it seriously, as a culture, as a society, God will destroy that society. That’s what He did to the Canaanites, that’s what He continues to do. They were to be put to death because God says to put the sin out from among you. Let’s be zealous about this, let’s be zealous about it when we see the hints about it. God will bless that because we should understand how quickly people can go, how quickly that leaven can spread. He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, He destroyed the rest of the Canaanites, it’s destroying our nation because the same thing is happening here, and we go, ‘God bless America’, and the Bible says that God is cursing America because we won’t deal with sin. We won’t deal with the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah, we think it’s natural for a man to lie with a man as a man lies with a woman and God says you don’t want to retain God in your knowledge. We need to make sure that if God judges nations, how much more is He going to judge the church because we are a nation that is not a nation. We are the people of God and if He is going to judge nations for not dealing with the sin, how much more will He judge a church for not dealing with the sin? For to whom much is given, much is expected. The church will

always be held to a higher standard. In a couple weeks we will be back in Exodus considering the Passover and we should remember what the response to the Passover should be. 1 Corinthians 5:7-13, "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. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 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. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person." God is saying what was true for the nation of Israel is true for the church, the church must deal with sin. In this case we're not talking about a member of the church, otherwise excommunication would happen, but we are talking about someone who attends every week. We should make sure we understand what that means, we have to constrain the evil in our midst or it will spread like leaven, which is why we are having this sermon, so that people see the work of darkness exposed so that the evil is put out from among us because we will be held to a higher account. I will say this, I've dealt with the civil magistrate on these matters multiple times and it's really sad that the civil magistrate tends to deal with these things far more biblically than the church does because I've seen churches deal with it as well. Many churches say, 'Well, he confessed that he got caught and he confessed of the sin so we just forgive him because there is forgiveness in Jesus Christ.' That was Paul saying in 1 Corinthians, in the New Testament, saying to put evil away from you and instead we say, 'Well, they confessed to let's forget it.' The civil magistrate does not say that. Every dealing I have had with the civil magistrate on these types of issues, the first thing they do is to cut off the person. They don't do it in the biblical sense of putting them to death, but they separate that person so that person is not in that household. As soon as they hear it, they won't let that person stay in that house for another night, they have to immediately leave. This is what they always do, isn't it sad that in America the civil magistrate has a better understanding of the word of God than most churches do? That is the biblical thing to do, the biblical thing to do is to put the evil thing away from you, and that's what they do. So often churches think that someone with a clear testimony, if you uncover your sister's nakedness, if you perform what is a death penalty offense, it's a clear testimony that you're not a believer and then they turn around and treat them like they are a believer. I've seen this happen so many times with so many sins. This is not what the church is supposed to do, when someone acts like an unbeliever, then the church needs to treat them like an unbeliever. Too often the church wants to treat them as someone who knows Christ because they pretend they have head knowledge, but they have a heart of stone. That's not how the church is to treat people, that's not the loving way to treat people. It's not loving to the person who is being deceived by the church where they are standing with God, and it's not loving to the people in the church who are saying the Holy Spirit has no efficacy. What a terrible thing to teach. When someone has a clear testimony of not being saved, they should be treated as if they are not saved.

## Applications:

1. Reconsider, no accusations here, I'm just making a general statement, everyone should reconsider nakedness in their household. Everybody should reconsider what is acceptable in terms of nakedness in their household. We live in a society where there is a lot of pressure for nudity because we live in a very wicked and perverse culture, so it's really easy for us as the church to say we are modest when we are out in public. Women wear dresses, we have this modest view about us, but that's not where the sin happens. The sin happens in the home, what does your home look like? Is there an expectation of modesty in the home? Is there an expectation that nakedness is a very abnormal situation? It should be an embarrassing situation. You can teach a two year old to be embarrassed when they are naked and that's a good thing. Leviticus 18 isn't just saying nakedness for the sake of nakedness, God is giving us things that are easy for us to grasp. How are you teaching the response to nakedness in your home? Remember, all sin is like this, the earlier the sin is constrained the less power it has as it grows and the more leaven there is the harder it is to kill the leaven. The earlier it's constrained the less damage is involved. If you teach your daughters that if one of their brother's sees their nakedness, they should start screaming because this is an embarrassment, a shame to them, how far do you think it will go? This is how we should be teaching them. Understand, I'm not saying there is some silver bullet that if you do this then this will never happen in your household. I'm just saying things that increase the constraint, you can never put a limit on depravity, but God tells us to constrain it and the attitude towards nakedness in your household is a big part of constraint.
2. It's important to teach your children not to walk in the darkness. We can't save our children, we see many examples of faithful men of God where this happens in their household. Think of David, his son rapes his daughter and that ends up with Absalom taking over the kingdom. The leaven grows because David doesn't do anything about it. That doesn't mean that the word of God doesn't have an effect, the word of God has a cleansing effect, but even as your children hear it week after week, don't think they are believers because of that. You don't get belief without God changing your heart, you don't have belief without the work of the Holy Spirit and the word of God does constrain, exposing it does cause things to happen, but don't forget they are still depraved. I still think there are a couple specific ways that you should teach your children to not walk in darkness and the first, in almost every one of these cases I have ever heard of, what's the first thing the boy says to the girl, 'Do not tell your father and mother. Don't tell mommy and daddy. Make sure this is a secret between the two of us.' You need to teach your children if a brother or sister ever says that to them, the first thing they do is go and tell one of their parents. They all need to know that, if they ever plot against you, they need to not conspire with their brother or sister. If you find out that they ever did, you need to discipline that very harshly because the reality is if they are plotting against their father and mother, you are sowing destruction in your household. This needs to be something that you make crystal clear to your children. It is never, never acceptable to say, 'Don't tell mommy and daddy.' Now you go, but wait, what if they're going to make a gift for us and they want to keep it secret. Balance these things! You're going to say it's

okay to have plots and conspiracy against your parents just so you can be surprised with a gift? Put these things in the right scale. Surprise birthday parties, don't teach your children to hide things from you, don't teach your son to hide things from their father. It's not worth it! A surprise party is not worth it. Teaching your children to conspire against you is evil, I don't care the reason because it will always start out as an innocent reason. 'We're going to do this because mommy and daddy will be so happy when they see it.' It's leaven and it grows. A son has to believe when he tells the daughter, 'Don't tell mommy and daddy', that she won't or he can't do anything, he can't do anything. If you taught them that it's ok at times, you have removed a major constraint in your household, it is never acceptable to say, 'Don't tell mommy and daddy'. That's key, teach your children to walk in the light. Now, we all know there are some times where that daughter is not going to tell you, but the son doesn't know when that will be. It works as a constraint even though the daughter is a sinner too. If you make your teachings clear, you can protect your household. Not perfectly, but still it's better to be protected than unprotected. The second way you teach your children to not walk in darkness is to expose their hidden works of darkness. Don't say, 'Oh, I spank them, but we want to keep this quiet, we won't let people know this.' Sin should be exposed, that's how it gets constrained, it gets exposed. Too often I think we just want to say we will just overlook it or we don't want his or her reputation to be hurt. That does no good for your child, none at all. Walking in the light means that you allow your deeds to be exposed, you allow people to see your sins. So often we can at the end of a long day say we are tired so we don't deal with their sin or come up with all other kinds of excuses instead of saying this is what it means to be a child of light. You expose the works of darkness, that's what it means to be a Christian, obviously just one aspect of it, but that's what it means. Now I want to speak to the children. Don't deceive yourself, if you have not repented, the church has not saved you. If your trust is in the church there is no hope there, it is only through the blood of Jesus Christ that you can be saved. You can be so polite, you can argue theology, you can do all these things but it doesn't mean that you are saved, it doesn't mean you aren't a slave to sin. You can be so polite and say 'yes ma'am', 'no sir', you can have this appearance and look at the people around you and think how much better of a person you are than all the sinners around you, all these worldly sinners, and you can start to think you are part of the church. Don't deceive yourself, you are still a slave to sin unless you put your hope and trust in Christ. That's the only way for the slavery to sin to be broken so don't be surprised when this sin comes upon you and you can't constrain it. Of course you can't constrain it, you're a slave. The only way to break the power of sin is to repent and run to Christ. Do that today if you have not. None of you children have professed, none of you. If you haven't made a public profession you are a slave to sin and don't expect that slavery to be mild. Don't expect that you can overcome it, you can't overcome it. The only way it can be broken is repentance. I do want to tell you something else that's also important, it's still better to walk in light than darkness because you know how you can constrain your slave master? Expose him to the light. If you're in sin right now, if you're doing something that you know your mother and father would disapprove of, I can tell you how to have temporal relief right now, this minute. Go confess it, go confess it. It won't save you, but when

you're getting beaten by your sin, when it's a whip on your back, you can actually stop that whip from hitting you on the back and that's why confessing your sins to someone that will do something about it will help. Every time someone confesses their sin and I meet with them, and this has happened a lot, they always weep and they always say the same exact thing, every one of them, it is such a relief that people now know because I don't have to hide it anymore, I don't have to keep doing it anymore. It is a relief, even though it's not a salvific relief, it is a relief when sin is exposed because the slave master is constrained, because you don't have the whip beating you on the back anymore. Even if you don't put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, for yourself, go confess your sins. For your own peace, for your own joy, for life not to have to be this misery, the constraint of sin is one of the great blessings of God. The constraint of believers is a great blessing of God. Don't hide things from your parents, walk in the light. Even if you don't do it for Jesus Christ, do it for yourself.

3. Parents, are you treating your children as believers? Even though they never made a credible profession of faith, are you treating them like believers because you see them obey? You tell them to do something and they go and do it. They know what you want them to do so they do it without you telling them and you start thinking they're someone who is faithful. No they're not, it's just someone who has learned how to manipulate the system better, someone who has learned how to make themselves happier and to make their life better. Just because you have successfully used the rod on your children and driven out their foolishness, it hasn't put in righteousness. To drive out foolishness, as the Bible says, that's teaching them how to make it better for them. That's what the rod does, it teaches them to make their life easier. It's wise to not sin in ways that get you in trouble with your parents, that's what the rod does, but it doesn't save anybody. It does cause them to walk in such a way that they can have greater joy and you look at that as a parent and you say you have driven the foolishness out of the heart of your child. Don't think that means that they are saved, that just means they have learned what's best for them, which is what the rod is meant for. If you start to see that change and treat that, and I understand nobody in this room is going to say that's salvation, that's not what I'm saying. What I'm saying is that we tend to look at our children and think they are saved because they have changed in that way and we forget that they are still sinners that have a slavemaster.
4. Are you treating your children still as children? I remember when my children were younger, even now it's hard for me to remember how old they are, you tend to think of your children as younger than they are. You tend to forget that they have grown up. You tend to think of that fourteen year old as a boy instead of a man with the feelings of a man without the constraint of a man. Make sure you remember how old your children are, make sure that you're paying attention to where they are. You see them spring up in height all of a sudden and you forget what that means. When the testosterone hits their body and they spring up in height, that means more than they've gotten the height of a man. Make sure you treat them that way and think of them that way. It's so easy to remember them as that ten year old, and you think it's not a big deal, but they are no longer that ten year old. They're a man. Make sure you are treating your children as the

age that they are and not the age that you pretend them to be. Then you think you are leaving this brother and sister together. No, you are leaving a man with your daughter. Obviously you look at each daughter and some daughters are going to scream, 'You're uncovering my nakedness! What are you doing?' and they're going to scream and yell. The son knows that, he's not stupid, so he's not going to do anything to her. There are also the ones because of the greater difference in age or the nature of the child, the meeker ones that aren't going to speak out, understand you need to be thinking about this. You're leaving a man with your daughter. The fact that he is her brother if he has a heart of stone, make sure your daughter is prepared. Make sure you are leaving him with a daughter who is prepared. I'm not saying you should never leave an older son with a younger daughter, I'm just saying to be smart about it. In our society we do all things to make sure men aren't left alone with little girls, make sure you are thinking of that in your home. Is your relationship with your daughter such that you know she will say something? If you can say that, then your son's not stupid, he knows it too because he is there all the time. If you think this daughter is kind of sneaky, you should realize that you shouldn't leave a man with her because you can't trust her not to say anything. We need to be smarter about these things and remember, he's not the little boy that you remember that you used to have sitting on your lap.

5. The last thing I want to end with is to not forget the power of the gospel in all of this. It's easy to consider the subject and think of the frequency of the problem and think that this is a terrible situation, but we shouldn't ignore the power of the gospel. The gospel transforms the world and the first way that we should make certain that we remember it is that the darkness does flee from the light. Ephesians 5:13, "But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light." When we expose, and that word 'expose' is not just 'made manifest'. The word that's translated 'exposed' is also to reprove or to rebuke. It is making it manifest, but it's also rebuking it at the same time. Light rebukes darkness. The kingdom of God is the light of the world and it will crush all the kingdoms of the earth. They haven't all been crushed yet, Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father and He is making His enemies His footstool. The way that that evil will be crushed is through the gospel, it is through the light going out through the nations. It can't stop every situation, but it can stop a bunch and the more the church is faithful to preach the word of God, the more the church is able to be the light, the more the sin gets constrained. As our nation is going in the direction it's going, let's never forget the reason it is, it's because the church is not fulfilling it's role to be the light. Don't think light doesn't have a real effect in your home, it does. Make sure you are shining the light of the gospel in your home.
6. Don't forget that even this sin can be forgiven in Christ. Regardless of what you have done, if you walk in the light and you confess your sins and you turn to Jesus Christ, these sins can be forgiven. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, "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. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the

name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." Don't deny the power of the gospel, it can bring forgiveness for any sin.

Let me pray. Oh Lord God, we do thank You for this time. We thank You for where You have us and the things that we deal with as a church. We thank You that You are a God who is the God of light, that You do expose the hidden works of darkness. Lord, may we be faithful to follow in Your commandments, to follow the steps of Christ as He exposed the evil in the world. Let us not be a people that accept evil, but let us be a people that would rather expose it so the unfruitful works of darkness are exposed and put away. Lord we thank You for this time, we do pray that You give us Your wisdom. Give us a zeal to deal with these things in our houses so that we walk as a holy people because the glory of the Lord filling the earth as the water's cover the sea, it starts with Your church. Make us a holy people oh Lord. In Jesus Christ's name we pray, amen.