

Leviticus 18  
**God's Good Authority in the Bedroom**  
July 21, 2013  
Sermon Outline

Notes:

**I. Introduction**

- A. Children's Sermon: Clear is not Enough
- B. Studies in Leviticus
  - 1. Listening to God's Word (2 Tim. 3:15–17)
  - 2. Pray (for you & for me)
  - 3. Ask searching questions
  - 4. Gracious one-anothering
- C. Relevance & Gospel Relevance
  - 1. This text is a warning to all people

**Leviticus 18:24-25**

<sup>24</sup> “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, <sup>25</sup> and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

- 2. Moving from good advice to good news

**Leviticus 18:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. ***I am the Lord your God.*** <sup>5</sup> You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; *if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.*

**Romans 7:10–14**

<sup>10</sup> *The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me.* <sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. <sup>12</sup> So *the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.*

<sup>13</sup> Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! ***It was sin, producing death in me through what is good,*** in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become

sinful beyond measure.<sup>14</sup> For we know that *the law is spiritual*, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

### Key Idea

*God's authority in the bedroom helps us to see how much we despise God's authority.*

#### D. Today's Questions:

1. What is God Protecting Israel From?
2. How does this instruction connect to the Gospel?
3. How does this passage instruct us?

## II. What is God Protecting Israel From?

- A. The Curse of Canaan (Gen. 9:20–27)
- B. The Abominations of Canaan<sup>1 2</sup>
- C. Their Own Wicked Hearts
  1. Protecting the Household from Sexual Immorality (Incest - 6-17)

### Leviticus 18:6-7

<sup>6</sup> “None of you shall *approach* any one of his **close relatives** to uncover nakedness<sup>3</sup>. I am the Lord.<sup>7</sup> You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness. ...

#### 2. “And also” other perversions

### Leviticus 18:18-23

<sup>1</sup> Negev, A. (1990). *The Archaeological encyclopedia of the Holy Land* (3rd ed.). New York: Prentice Hall Press.

<sup>2</sup> Ross, A. P. (2002). *Holiness to the Lord: A Guide to the Exposition of the Book of Leviticus* (345). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

<sup>3</sup> While the idiom certainly means sexual relations, the use of the verb suggests a more forceful or passionate activity (A. Noordtjij, *Leviticus* [trans. R. Trogtman; Bible Student's Commentary; Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1982], 183) and implies that the perpetrator is forcefully taking advantage of someone who is vulnerable, someone living with him who may be a dependent.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>18</sup> And you shall not take a woman as **a rival wife** to her sister, **uncovering her nakedness** while her sister is still alive. (Jacob?)

<sup>19</sup> “You shall not approach a woman **to uncover her nakedness** while she is **in her menstrual uncleanness**. (v. 29 - Cut Off)

<sup>20</sup> And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor’s wife and so **make yourself unclean** with her.

<sup>21</sup> You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so **profane the name** of your God: I am the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an **abomination**. (Offensive)

<sup>23</sup> And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is **perversion**. (Offensive Confusion)

### 3. Self-righteousness (Romans 7:10–14)

## III. Authority & Worship

### A. We Despise Authority!

#### 2 Peter 2:9–10a

[Noah, Lot...] <sup>9</sup> then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, <sup>10</sup> and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. ...

### B. Transformed by a True Husband

#### Ephesians 5:25–33

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, **as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her**, <sup>26</sup> **that he** might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> **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. <sup>28</sup> In the same way husbands should love

their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”* <sup>32</sup> This mystery is profound, and **I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.** <sup>33</sup> However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### **Key Idea**

*Our lives, our bodies, our marriages were created by God to declare the marriage between Christ & the Church. We do not belong to ourselves. We belong to our Husband and He has given himself for us!*