

Godward Sexuality in a Sexually Perverse World

Leviticus 18

Introduction:

- Merriam-Webster, “A set of moral principles: a theory or system of moral values.”
- The Cambridge Dictionary, “A system of accepted beliefs that control behavior, especially such a system based on morals.”
- Norman Geisler, “The ethical imperatives that God gives are in accord with his unchangeable moral character. That is, God wills what is right in accordance with his own moral attributes.”¹
 - “Christian ethics is based on God’s will, but God never wills anything contrary to his unchanging moral character.”²

Why Leviticus 18 is Important: Leviticus 18 provides the nation of Israel—and us today—a biblical sexual ethic to help us think and act godward about sexuality in a sexually perverse world.

I. _____ (1–2)

II. _____ (3–5)

- Jay Sklar, “Such faithfulness is never seen as a way to gain relationship with the Lord; it is always seen as a right response to the gracious Lord who has rescued his people and given them his law, that they might walk in fellowship with him and reflect his good and holy character in all the earth.”³

¹ Norman Geisler, *Christian Ethics*, 22.

² Norman Geisler, *Christian Ethics*, 22.

³ Jay Sklar, *Leviticus: An Introduction and Commentary*, ed. David G. Firth, vol. 3, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Nottingham, England: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013), 229.

III. _____ **(6–23)**

A. _____

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iv. _____

B. _____ **(6–18)**

1. Sexual activity with mother (7)
2. Sexual activity with step-mother (8)
3. Sexual activity with sister (9)
4. Sexual activity with granddaughter (10)
5. Sexual activity with step-sister (11)
6. Sexual activity with paternal aunt (12)
7. Sexual activity with maternal aunt (13)
8. Sexual activity with paternal uncle’s wife (14)
9. Sexual activity with daughter-in-law (15)
10. Sexual activity with brother’s wife (16)
11. Sexual activity with stepdaughter or step-granddaughter (17)
12. Sexual activity with wife’s sister (18)

Theological Reasons Why Leviticus 18 Prohibits Incest

1. Sexual purity is explicitly defined by Scripture as one man and one woman in a marriage covenant.
2. God's people need to know who is suitable for marriage.
3. God's people need to understand that biblical sexuality in marriage helps a society function godwardly.
 - R. K. Harrison, "Marriage as a social institution is regarded throughout Scripture as the cornerstone of all other structures, and hence its purity and integrity must be protected at all times."
 - T. Desmond Alexander, "When a society turns a blind eye to marital faithfulness, it signals that absolute faithfulness in all relationships does not matter. If an individual cannot be true to his or her marriage partner, the one with whom he or she is most intimate, what expectation can others have that that person will remain faithful to them? Without faithfulness all relationships become considerably less than what God intended them to be. When marital unfaithfulness abounds unchecked within a society, the whole community becomes corrupted through a lack of trust in other people.... YHWH recognizes that a promiscuous society will not be true to the covenant being ratified, because its fundamental spirit proclaims that faithfulness in relationships is not a core value of its members."⁴
4. Men need to understand that they are responsible for their own sexual purity as well as their family's.

⁴ T. Desmond Alexander, *Exodus*, ed. David W. Baker and Gordon J. Wenham, vol. 2, *Apollos Old Testament Commentary* (London; Downers Grove, IL: Apollos; InterVarsity Press, 2017), 420.

C. _____ (19–23)

i. _____ (19)

ii. _____ (20)

iii. _____ (21)

iv. _____ (22)

v. _____ (23)

IV. _____ (24–30)

A. _____

- “Defile” – to become unclean
- “Abominations” – detestable, repugnant.
- “Casting out” – to send away
- “Spewed out” – to spit; to be sick; to vomit
- “Cut off” – eliminated; to disappear; exterminated

B. _____ (30)

Appropriation: Be salt and light as we live out *Godward Sexuality in a Sexually Perverse World*.