

Holiness

“Holiness and Sex”

Leviticus 18 – November 9, 2025

Our Sermon Series

HOLINESS		
A Meaningful Study of a Book in the Bible That Most People Skip Over		
Date	Bible Text	Message Title
Oct 5	Leviticus 1:1	Holiness
Oct 12	Leviticus 1-7	Holiness Starts by Saying Please, Sorry, and Thanks
Oct 19	Leviticus 8-10	Holiness is Serious Business!
Oct 26	Leviticus 11-15	Holiness Makes You a Good Kind of Different
Nov 2	Leviticus 16-17	The Key to Holiness
Nov 9	Leviticus 18	Holiness and Sex [PG-13 sermon]
Nov 16	Leviticus 19-20	Holiness, Love, and the Poor
Nov 23	Leviticus 21-22	When Leaders Aren't Holy
Nov 30	Leviticus 23-25	Holy Celebrations
Dec 7	Leviticus 26-27	Holiness as a Way of Life

Outline of Leviticus 18

- **vv. 1-5 – A charge to God’s people to NOT follow the sexual practices of the rest of the world** but to live within His good and life-giving sexual boundaries.
- **vv. 6-16 – God’s sexual boundaries with close relatives:** Do not have sex with your parent, stepparent, sibling, stepsibling, grandchild, step-grandchild, child, stepchild, aunt, uncle, step-aunt, step-uncle, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, sibling’s spouse, spouse’s sibling.
- **vv. 17-23 – Additional sexual boundaries:** Do not have sex with a woman during her menstrual period (v.19), your neighbor (v.20 – adultery), a person of the same gender (v.22), or an animal (v.23). Do not engage in child sacrifice (v.21).
- **vv. 24-30 – A charge to keep these sexual boundaries** lest you be removed from God’s promised land as the nations before you were removed.

WHY – God’s Reasons for These Sexual Boundaries

1. I am the Lord your God (vv.2,4,5,6,21,30)

- At least six times in this sexual boundary chapter, God says, “I am the Lord your God.” We are to obey God’s sexual commands because He is the Creator, and we are His creation. He is in charge!
- **James 4:7,10** – *Submit yourselves therefore to God.... Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.*

2. So that we will have abundant life (v.5)

- **Leviticus 18:5** (NLT) – *If you obey My decrees and regulations, you will find life through them. I am the Lord.*
- **John 10:10** – *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

- John Benza: “Why does the Bible have so many laws about sexual behavior? Is God trying to limit our sexual expression and pleasure? When we look at God’s instructions, it’s clear that He sets boundaries around the gift of sex in order to keep us healthy physically and whole relationally. Sexual sin is powerful and destructive, so it makes sense that a loving God would want to keep us safe. Sins involving sex are not innocent dabblings in forbidden pleasures, as they are so often portrayed. They are powerful destroyers of relationships. They bring confusion and tear down the climate of respect, trust, and integrity so essential for solid marriages and secure children. Some people argue that it is alright to break God’s law against sexual sin if nobody gets hurt, but in truth, somebody always gets hurt. Spouses are devastated. Children are scarred. The partners themselves, even if they escape disease and unwanted pregnancy, may lose their ability to fulfill commitments, to feel sexual desire, to trust, or to be entirely open with one another. Those who have pre-marital intercourse are giving away what God intends them to give only to their marriage partner. They may end up emotionally scarred and incapable of having an intimate, healthy sexual relationship if or when they do get married. God’s rules do not forbid good, clean fun; rather, they protect us from destroying ourselves through unwise actions or by running ahead of God’s timetable.”
- Wheatley Institute Study: “Women in *highly* religious relationships (couples who pray together, read scripture at home, and attend church) were twice as likely as their secular peers to say they were satisfied with their sexual relationship. And the men in these couples were four times as likely to report being sexually satisfied as men in relationships with no religious activity.”

3. So that we will enjoy God’s Presence (vv.24-30)

- Leviticus equates being in the Presence of God with both being in the tabernacle tent and being in God’s Promised Land. It is the sinful sexual practices of the former nations that caused them to be “vomited” from the land. God warns His people with the same consequence if they disobey the commands of Leviticus 18.

WHAT – A Summary of God’s Sexual Boundaries in Leviticus and the New Testament

Sexual sin is having sex (physically or in your brain) with anyone other than the person of the opposite gender that you are married to (Ex 20:14; Lev 18; Matt 5:27-28; 1 Corinth 6:9-20; Eph 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3-5; 2 Tim 2:20-22). Examples include:

Adultery – sex with a married person – not your spouse	Topless clubs; strip clubs
Fornication – sex with any one you are not married to	Same sex sexual relations
Petting – touching someone’s private parts whom you are not married to	Pornographic internet, books, pictures, or movies
Oral sex with someone you are not married to	Phone sex, sexting
Voyeurism – watching someone else have sex	Bestiality
Friends with benefits, wife swapping (swinging)	Incest, rape, pedophilia

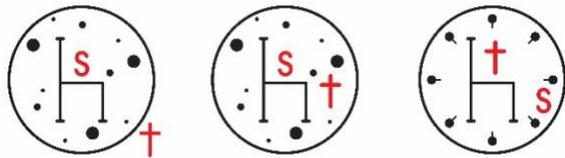
Ephesians 5:3 – *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality.*

Notice that in the middle of a chapter devoted entirely to sex, God mentions child sacrifice (Lev.18:21). One of the solutions to abortion is following God’s sexual commands. Choose life!! adiraclinic.org

HOW – How to Live in God’s Sexual Boundaries and to Enjoy God’s Gift of Sexuality

1. Be **born again** and receive the indwelling Spirit of Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and as the One who can empower you to walk in sexual purity as you ask Him to sit in the driver’s seat of your life.

- **Romans 10:9** – *If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Receive Christ into your life (Rev. 3:20) and then go public with that decision through public water baptism (Acts 2:38). Our next baptism service is Nov. 23. WhatIsGrace.org/Baptisms
- A course for same-sex attracted people interested in Jesus: ondemand.centerforfaith.com/courses/journeys-of-faith



2. **Flee** sexual immorality.

- **1 Corinthians 6:18-20** – *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

3. Live with healthy **boundaries** and **practices** in your life that will set you up for obedience and victory.

Ten Best Practices for Staying Above Reproach

1. Glass everywhere. (Nothing hidden).
2. Don't be alone with the opposite gender... ever! (except spouse).
3. Don't develop an emotional relationship/friendship with a person of the opposite gender (except spouse).
4. Don't counsel the opposite gender.
5. Don't go to "the liquor store." Remove yourself from temptations. Remove temptations from you. Stay away from pornography, strip bars, topless bars, phone sex lines, etc.
6. Seek healing for your unresolved issues. Invest in counseling in order to get whole (see yellow card of suggested counselors).
7. Have regular, transparent accountability in your life. Invite someone to be your accountability partner (same gender) and begin revealing your life to them. As God leads, tell them everything! Sign up for covenanteyes.com with an accountability person.
8. Fellow Christians: Watch each other's backs. Protect one another. Pray for one another. Recruit a prayer shield for your life.
9. Walk with God. Christ in the driver's seat. Identity in Christ.
10. If you are addicted sexually or been betrayed, get help: puredesire.org

4. If God gives you the gift of marriage, then cultivate a healthy marriage relationship and a healthy marital **sex** life.

Twelve Ideas for Increasing Romance in Your Marriage

1. Cultivate spiritual oneness by praying together, discussing spiritual things together, and attending church/small group together.
2. Cultivate emotional oneness through ongoing courtship: regular dates together, regular focused eye-to-eye conversation, regular expressions of love (notes, gifts, serving, non-sexual touching, phone calls, encouraging words). [See Chapman's The Five Love Languages]
3. Forgive your spouse. Communicate any unspoken hurts and then forgive your spouse unconditionally (Ephesians 4:25-32).
4. Turn off the TV! Move the TV! Destroy the remote! Destroy the TV! Get off your cell phone. Get off the computer. Destroy all technology in your house!
5. Talk about physical intimacy together regularly. Seek to understand your mate – both how he/she is wired and what pleases her/him. Talk about it. Coach one another. Have an "Intimacy Discussion Date." Read Doug Rosenau's *A Celebration of Sex*.
6. If you have children, get a lock for your bedroom door. Do whatever you need to do to break the "children sleeping in our bed" habit!
7. Slow down!!!!!! Determine to take 3 times as long making love. Change your mentality of sex from "getting" to "giving." Sex should be mutually satisfying for both partners (1 Corinth 7:1-5).
8. Take steps to grow in your attractiveness to your spouse whether through exercise, eating habits, hygiene, hair, clothes.
9. View physical intimacy as both a thermometer and a thermostat in marriage.
10. Decide to enjoy physical intimacy. Decide to give pleasure to your spouse. Decide to give your spouse your enjoyment of physical intimacy. [See Sheila Gregoire's *Honey, I Don't Have a Headache Tonight!*]
11. Agree together on frequency and schedule love making dates.
12. Schedule a "Just The Two of Us" weekend away from the home. Prioritize "Just The Two of Us" vacations regularly and consistently.

Bonus Idea: Ladies, give your husband "The Twelve Nights of Christmas"

5. Teach and train your **children** regarding healthy sexuality.

Five Suggestions on Parenting Your Children Regarding Sex

1. Model a healthy marriage relationship in front of them.
2. Read the "God's Design for Sex" books with your kids at the appropriate ages: "The Story of Me" (ages 3-5), "Before I Was Born" (ages 5-8), "What's the Big Deal" (ages 8-11), and "Facing the Facts" (ages 11-14).
3. Talk to your children about pornography using the books "Good Pictures, Bad Pictures Jr." (ages 4-7) and "Good Pictures, Bad Pictures" (ages 6-11).
4. Create an atmosphere in your home where talking about sex is normal and where there is not shame around talking about sex.
5. Take your child on a Passport to Purity weekend the summer before 6th grade to discuss purity and to inform them of your family's boundaries around dating.

Resource: The Center for Faith, Sexuality, & Gender centerforfaith.com