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# **Thou shalt not lie with a Man As With a Woman.**

**Same Sex Relationships.**

**Love, Grace and the Bible.**

**Homosexuals and Lesbians.**

(2013)

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The Bible not only reveals God's eternal Plans, Purposes and Promises,

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

***Teach it, don't demand it.***

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Thank you for clicking on this topic, my aim in this study is not to change anyone's mind to a particular view, but rather to dispel some of the antipathy and hostility there is toward those who love Christ, but happen to be born for whatever scientific or medical reason with a natural attraction to a partner of the same sex. Please take the time to read the title, "About the Author and Testimonies" to understand the motive and intent of my heart in writing these articles.

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## Thou shalt not Lie with a Man as with a Woman.

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Leviticus 18:20-30 ---- <sup>20</sup>Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her. <sup>21</sup>And thou shalt not let any of thy seed (offspring) pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD. <sup>22</sup>Thou shalt not *lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.* <sup>23</sup>Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion (Lev. 18:22 parallels Lev. 20:13).

Here we read, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination," at face value these verses appear black and white end of debate, simple just condemn all of homosexuals to hell-fire, but is this verses referring to men through no fault of their own have for whatever medical or scientific reason been born with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex gender (homosexuals) or is it referring to heterosexual men who chose to lie with each other from lust.

This verse is in the context of the Levitical law and part of the Levitical law that the LORD gave to Israel and is recorded in the book of Leviticus. It is referred to as the holiness code of the LORD and its laws contain everything from commandments for men not to shave the edges of their beards; orders not to have intercourse during menstruation; not to harvest different crops in the same field; as well as strict dietary laws. The holiness code as it is called was written to distinguish the Hebrews morally and ritually from the Babylonians and Canaanites. The laws of Leviticus are often referred to as the purity laws. These laws also contain cultural customs and the following practices: -

- Stoning to death those who commit adultery.
- Stoning to death those who work on the Sabbath.
- Stoning to death recalcitrant children.
- Women not being allowed to talk in the church.
- Women not being allowed to teach men.
- Women always keeping their heads covered in church.
- Not wearing mixed fibres in one's clothes, etc.

**Dr Laura Schlessinger:** the following letter gives both an amusing and insightful look at the Levitical law. Dr Laura Schlessinger a US radio personality (2011) a knowledgeable woman who dispenses advice to people who call into her radio show. On one of these shows a caller phoned in with a question concerning homosexuality after listening to the callers question, Dr Laura said that according to (Leviticus 18:22) homosexuality is an abomination that cannot be condoned under any circumstances one of her listeners upon hearing her comment wrote her the following open letter.

Dear Dr. Laura.

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him or her that (Lev. 18:22) clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate, however I do need some further advice from you regarding some of the specific laws and how to follow them.

1. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odour for the LORD (Lev. 1:9). The problem is my neighbours. They claim the odour is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in (Exodus 21:7). In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness (Lev. 15:19-24). The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence.
4. (Lev. 25:44) states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?
5. I have a neighbour who insists on working on Sunday (the Sabbath). In the book of (Exodus 35:2) it clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?
6. A friend of mine feels even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. 11:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't know. Can you settle this?
7. (Lev. 21:20), states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wriggle room here?
8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by (Lev.19:27). How should they die?
9. I know from (Lev. 11:6-8) that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?
10. My uncle has a farm. He violates (Lev. 19:19) by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot, is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? (Lev.24:10-16). Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Leviticus 20:14).

I know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging, and we should do what the Bible says. Your devoted disciple and adoring fan.

**NOTE:** if you are still reading congratulations I expect most would have clicked the escape key by now, whether you agree or disagree is fine since my goal is simply to lessen the antipathy and hostility some heterosexual Christians have toward men and women who love Christ as much as we do, but happen to be born with a different sexual orientation to ours.

The following verses look at what the New Testament says about the law: -

- You have died to the law through the body of Christ (Rom. 7:4).
- Now we are discharged from the law that held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit (Rom. 7:4-6)
- Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes (Rom. 10:4).
- Before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian (i.e. the law). For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith (Gal. 3:23-26).
- God has made us ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Cor. 3:6).

- God cancelled the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Col. 2:14).
- In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away (Heb. 8:13).

Since these verses clearly show that we are no longer under the law some may wonder, "If we are not under the law does that mean we can lie, cheat, steal, etc.?" In (Rom. 6:15) Paul answers this question himself, "By no means!" Didn't Christ himself say that he came not to abolish the law, but to fulfil it? (Matt. 5:17) so what is the law that we are to fulfil? All we have to do to find the answer to this question is look at the following answer Jesus gave to the Rabbi, who asked him, "Which is the greatest commandment in the law?" Jesus answered him by saying: -

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets (Matt. 22:36-40).

Paul later echoed this idea in the following verse: -

- Owe no one anything, *except to love one another*; for he who *loves his neighbour has fulfilled the law*. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this sentence, *You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbour*; (another human) therefore love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:8-10)

Now when we go back and look at the words, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination (Lev. 18:22) and consider the previous words of Jesus and the teachings of Paul it becomes clear that rape, stealing, hating and such like things are immoral because they are not in line with the law of love which Christ frames so perfectly when he answered the Rabbi's question, "Which is the greatest commandment in the law?" The Spirit underpinning God's law is love because each law protects another human from harm. Love not only does no harm to another person, but also protects from harm. This means that the answer to the question, "What is the law that we are to fulfil? Is the law of love (i.e., do all things from love)

Concerning God's law Paul wrote: -

- The whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Galatians 5:14).
- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).
- James wrote: -
- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself, you are doing well (James 2:8).

The light of these verses raises the question, "Are men and women who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens, are not harming others, but showing kindness, who happen to have for whatever medical or scientific reason an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex gender (homosexuals) and are therefore living in a committed, loving supportive and caring relationship in violation of this law?" Especially when we understand that God's law is all about love,

Perhaps for some this question will never be answered, like the Pharisees and Sadducees the legalist could go on picking the law of love apart forever. This is because the only boundaries the law of love has is do everything within the confines of what is good and that does not bring harm or hurt to anyone physically, financially, emotionally, sexually, mentally and spiritually.

Paul wrote: -

- We are now discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit (Rom. 7:4-6).

The old written law (called the holiness code) is laid out throughout the Book of Leviticus and parts of Deuteronomy. The Israelites were to follow these laws until the Messiah came and a new covenant was created. This of course happened with the arrival of Christ who established a New Covenant, which was founded upon better promises (Heb. 8:6). This New Covenant did not rely on a lengthy list of do's and don'ts, but focused instead on the heart of God's will for those who belong to Christ which of course is the great commandment of love in which we are to love God first and foremost and love our neighbour as we love our self (Matt. 22:37-40) (Galatians 5:14) (John 13:34) (Romans 13:10). This means that the new life of the Spirit (Rom. 7:4-6) refers to doing all things from love in contrast to doing things from the written letter of the law.

Concerning faith, righteousness and salvation Paul wrote: -

- Not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through *faith* in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by *faith* (Philippians 3:9-10).
- Know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by *faith* in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our *faith* in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by *faith* in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified (Galatians 2:15-16).

Paul repeatedly warned believers that their salvation can only be achieved through Jesus Christ and nothing else and that any attempt on their part to gain their salvation by following a Levitical list of do's and don'ts is doomed to fail. He also said, if believers attempt to follow such a list of rules to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life they are denying what Christ achieved for us on the cross (Gal. 2:21-3:11) (Gal 5:1-6). Yet many good intentioned Christians still use the passages in Leviticus in an effort to demonstrate that homosexuals cannot be saved. They continue to call for the Levitical laws to be enforced upon the homosexual community, but totally ignore the multitudes of other laws contained in the Levitical book of laws.

This type of judgment is especially dangerous and may even bring judgment upon those who judge in this manner since there is no-doubt that people during the Old Testament era knew nothing about men and women being born for whatever medical or scientific reason with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex gender (homosexuals) who not only find it offensive to sleep with a person of the opposite sex but repulsive and stomach churning. For this reason it is most likely that the Bible writers had in mind heterosexual men who acting out of lust pervert the nature they have been born with by lustfully lying with other heterosexual men.

This idea is especially reinforced when it is seen that the words, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination" are in the same context of women lying with animals (Lev 18:22-23), because of this some scholars believe these verses are referring to the vile act of men taking young boys to bed a practise called pederasty (the love of boys). We know that this vice was common during the New Testament era among the Cretans, the Greeks; their poets and their great men, the learned and was even sanctioned by their philosophers.

It was practiced at Thebes and it is said by their writers that the practice of pederasty with beautiful boys, was openly practiced at Rome without shame. This abominable vice against nature was a common crime throughout the pagan world since writings of that era speak of flocks and troops of boys, distinguished by their colours and nations and talk of great care being taken to train them up for this detestable employment. These writers even state that this pederasty with beautiful boys was not only practiced, but they gloried in it and even had a law encouraging this sort of unnatural love. Other writers giving accounts of the Empire of China state that it was extremely common among the Chinese. Even today there are

certain hotels around the world that are grooming young boys for the sole purpose of hiring them to heterosexual business men who stay at their hotels. Since these young boys are innocent victims of the most abominable and vile crime against nature every sane person whether heterosexual or homosexual would call this an abomination and most vile practise. It is certain that if these abominations were being practised during the age of the New Testament and are still being practised today they were also practised during the time that God was giving the Levitical laws to the nation of Israel.

Sadly throughout history there has always been a small fringe of Christians within the church that would, if it was legal, call for all homosexuals to be put to death based on (Lev. 20:13). Enforcing the Levitical laws (the holiness code) upon others isn't a new problem. The early Jewish Christian church didn't want to let go of their laws and were especially keen to enforce them on the Gentiles who they considered an unclean people and an abomination.

Paul fought long and hard to point out that if any Christian tries to follow the law or enforce the law upon others to earn righteousness that leads to eternal life. God will hold them accountable for following each and every one of the laws, no exceptions (Gal. 5:1-6). This means if Christians want to enforce Levitical laws (the holiness code) on someone else God will hold them accountable to uphold all the laws contained in the Levitical laws themselves.

It is against good Bible study to lift a single verse out of its context and isolate it from the surrounding verses and then shine a brilliant spotlight upon it without shining the same light upon all the other verses surrounding it. Applying this principal to the Levitical law it could be rightly stated that to lift one Levitical law up out the entire book of Levitical laws and isolate it from all the other laws contained in the same book then shine a brilliant spotlight upon it is very bad Bible study indeed especially when the law that the light is being shone upon is not harming or hurting others and therefore not violating the law of love. Common sense and good Bible study tells us if we embrace one Levitical law we have to embrace all Levitical laws as the following verses show: -

- It is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them" (Gal. 3:10).
- Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them (Rom. 10:5).

**The law and capital punishment:** the Levitical law (the holiness code) required that believers can't go anywhere on the Sabbath so that would rule out, going to the beach, shopping at the mall and going to see or play sport. Worse still under the Levitical law (the holiness code) all the following punishments applied: -

- If a believer's children cursed or disobeyed their parents, the parents would be under obligation to put them to death.
- People reading horoscopes were to be put to death.
- Anybody who committed adultery? Was to be put to death.
- If anyone had sex before marriage, same penalty, put to death.
- At least it's a little easier for women in their menstrual period. Instead of death they would only be sent out beyond the city limits to wait out their humiliation.
- Jewellery and beauty parlours (i.e. hair styles) or tattoos – forget it!

And these are only a very small portion of what is contained in the Levitical book of the law, but the good news is that under the New Covenant we are no longer under the Levitical law (the holiness code).

- Now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old written code, but in the new life of the Spirit (Rom. 3:6).

- If you are led by the Spirit (gentleness, love, joy, peace, patience, self-control, kindness, goodness and faithfulness you are not under the law because against these things there is no law (Gal. 5:18) (Gal. 5:23) (Gal. 5:22-23)

While Christians today are no longer under the Levitical law (the holiness code) they can still learn from them. The principals they teach are as valid now as they were to the Israelites thousands of years ago as the following notes will show. The holiness code (the Levitical law, the old written code) teaches us principles such as: -

**Holiness:** the Levitical laws ordered the Israelites to have no other gods and to stay away from the shrine prostitutes (male and female).

**Respect:** the Levitical law directed the Israelites to treat others with respect and honour, which included providing food and shelter for strangers travelling through their land.

**Family:** many of the Levitical laws stressed the importance of family and procreation, which was essential for the continuation of the Israelite nation. Now believers become members of the family of Christ not through a natural birth but through a spiritual re-birth. Nevertheless the need to cherish their spiritual and physical family is as important now as it was then.

**Health:** the Levitical laws stressed personnel hygiene, proper eating habits and the need to stay away from temple prostitutes.

While all of these points are as valid as they were thousands of years ago when the Levitical laws were written, Jesus Himself stated that these principles are embodied in and completely fulfilled when those who belong to Christ carry out the great commandment to love (Matt. 22:37-40). This is because when Christians act in love toward one another, they won't treat others (or themselves) with disrespect or harm or hurt another person. They will cherish both their birth family and their Christian family members and if they love the Lord God with all their heart and with all their soul and with all their mind they are fulfilling the two commandments that the whole law and the prophets depend on (Matt. 22:37-40).

**The Bible is silent:** the Bible does not fully address the topic and Jesus and the prophets never talked about men and women who have been born with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex who are in a loving and caring relationship, devoted to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, are not breaking any laws and are showing kindness to others. Whenever the Bible condemns same sex relationships it has in focus heterosexuals who chose to be sexually active with each other and is almost always in the context of those who not only deny God, but actually hate God are violent and rebellious and in many context worship idols.

**Consider for a moment:** when we reject and condemn to eternal hell-fire those who love the Lord Jesus Christ simply because they are born with an orientation and disposition toward the same sex we maybe in danger of bringing judgment on ourselves since we all have dwelling within our fallen corrupted bodies our own particular sinful aberrations and dysfunctions and not one of us is able to stand before Christ and God's Holiness and claim we are sin free and not one of us is saved without the washing and cleansing power of God's blood and God's grace. Added to these no one is saved by the law as the following Scriptures show: -

- By works of the law no one will be justified (Gal. 2:16).
- If justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).
- Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law (Gal. 3:11).

**NOTE:** it should not surprise us that the Bible appears silent regarding this group of people since the Bible teaches the perfect ideal (i.e. it is silent on masturbation yet many psychologist state that almost every-one practises it at some time and many even into their old age whether non-Christian or Christian male or female) perhaps the great sin of the Christian homosexual community who love Christ and worship

God is that there lifestyle is evident, much like a humble person who happens to smoke is often judged as a lesser Christian whereas a person full of pride or lustful thoughts can be considered righteous simply because their sins are hidden.

**homosexual activity:** is mentioned in the story of Sodom in the context of forceful and violent rape and in Paul's letter to the Romans in the context of denying God, idolatry (Baal worship) lust and dishonourable passions (Rom. 1:24-27). Then in Paul's letter to Timothy in the context of sexually immoral, enslavers, liars and perjurers (1 Tim. 1:10) and in his letter to the Corinthians in the context of the sexually immorality, idolaters, adulterers and in the context of prostitution and possibly pederasty (sexual relations between a man and a boy) (1 Cor. 6:9)

To use Leviticus to condemn men and women who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens and show kindness to others but for whatever medical or scientific reason have been born with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex gender (homosexuals), involves a projection of one's own bias since there is no passages in the Bible that talk about this kind of relationship since whenever it is mentioned is always in the context of violence, rape, God haters, idol worship, lust, using sex for money and having sex with small boys.

When we condemn men and women who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens and show kindness to others but for whatever medical or scientific reason have been born with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex gender (homosexuals) we may be in danger of reading into the Biblical text more than the Scriptures intended. Historically, the Bible has been taken out of context and twisted to oppress almost every minority group one could imagine including women, African Americans, slaves and Jews etc. When we ponder these things it becomes clear that Christianity has not always truly understood the following command of Jesus: -

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. (Matt. 22:36-40).

If all the Levitical laws were listed it would be clearly seen that no Christian today could possibly keep them. Leviticus alone cannot be used to condemn men and woman who love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens and show kindness to others but for whatever medical or scientific reason have been born with an orientation and natural disposition toward people of the same sex gender (homosexuals) for the following two reasons: -

1. All Christians are constantly breaking at least one Levitical Law.
2. Christ's death and resurrection abolished the Levitical law.

### **The Great Commandment.**

Jesus himself stated that the greatest commandment is to love (Matt. 22:37-40). When we act in love we won't treat others (or ourselves) with disrespect or do harm. We will cherish our birth families and our Christian family and love our neighbour (all others) as ourselves (i.e., as we would like others to treat us). And we will love God with all our heart, soul and mind. These are the two greatest commandments and it is upon these two commandments that the whole Law and the Prophets is founded (Matt. 22:37-40) (Matt 22:40).

Jesus said: -

- The whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (Galatians 5:14).
- So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 7:12).



I, like the Jews of old who had to work their way through adopting Gentiles into their midst and work out-together what that meant for each group, still have certain questions that I am working through myself and for that reason my aim in these articles is not to tell anyone what they should or should not believe, but simply present unbiased information that hopefully will help people who like myself were influenced by my generation to dehumanize homosexuals and lesbians and by certain church leaders to condemn everyone who was in a same sex relationship to condemnation and hell-fire.

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End.