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Thou Shalt Not Lie
with
A Man as with a Woman.

Same Sex Relationships

(2019)

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Bible
at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Thou shalt Not Lie with a Man as with a Woman.

TEACH IT, DON'T DEMAND IT

Thank you for visiting this topic, my aim in this study is to dispel some of the antipathy and hostility there is toward those who love Christ, but through no fault of their own, have been born with a natural attraction toward those of the same sex gender or have this attraction, because of some medical, biological or genetic influence.

YOU SHALL NOT LIE WITH A MALE AS WITH A WOMAN

The English Standard Bible says:

- **Leviticus 18:22:** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

The King James Bible says:

- **Leviticus 18:22:** Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination.

At face value this verse appears black and white end of debate, simple just condemn all homosexuals to eternal damnation, but is it as easy as that? To answer this question, let's begin with the meaning of the word homosexual. The word, homosexual did not exist when the original manuscripts of the Bible were written. During these ancient years the people knew nothing of those who through no fault of their own, were born with a natural attraction to the same sex, or for some medical, biological or genetic influence at a very early age (probably by age five) had a very real sexual orientation deeply-rooted and imbedded in their nature, that is naturally attracted toward people of the same sex gender, which is not only their natural state of being, but is also unchangeable, because it is the natural disposition of the person, and therefore they cannot love a person of the opposite sex, for such a thing would be repulsive and repugnant to them.

It is not hard to understand that they knew nothing of this unique group of people when it is remembered, that during earlier generations a person born disfigured, disable, blind or deaf, or suffered some type of mental or physical illness that the people did not understand, was believed to be possessed by demons and many were banned from the community, so it is hardly likely they would know anything about a man and a woman having a natural attraction to another person of the same sex. Condemning a heterosexual person for sexually lying with a person of their own gender, is justifiable, since they are acting contrary to their natural sexual orientation. In contrast to this, a genuine homosexual and lesbian person, is being true to their nature and sexual orientation, for them to hook up with a person of the opposite sex, would be extremely repulsive, for they would be acting against their natural nature.

These facts raise the question, is it right to cast out of the church and condemn to eternal damnation, those who are living in a committed loving caring relationship, when they are not breaking any laws and are showing kindness to others and by faith believe in and are devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ, purely because they are living true to their own nature and sexual orientation. In a natural court of law, a person must be proved guilty beyond any shadow of doubt, before the judge sentences and condemns them. The question we must all ask ourselves (including me) is, "if I, in my heart judge these people to eternal damnation, am I 100% certain I am making a right judgment, because if not, I may be in danger of bringing judgement upon myself."

For further information concerning these verses, see the title:

- Defile themselves with Mankind (1 Timothy 1:9-10).
- Abusers of Themselves (1Cor 6:9).

On the index of this study: Same Sex Relationships.

Understanding the meaning of the word homosexual raises the question, is this verse referring to men who are living true to the natural romantic sexual attraction they have toward people of the same sex gender, that through no fault of their own, they have been born with, or for some medical, biological or genetic reason developed at a very early age, or is it referring to heterosexual men who are acting contrary to their own sexual nature and orientation who from lust chose to lie with each other.

The Levitical law: the words, "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination," is in the context of the Levitical law, which is referred to as the holiness code of the LORD and the purity laws, because 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 was written to distinguish the Hebrews morally and ritually from the nations in the land of Canaan, they 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 unruly and disobedient teenagers.
- 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 her shows a caller phoned in with a question concerning homosexuality after listening to the callers' question, Dr Laura said that according to (Lev. 18:22).

- **Leviticus 18:22:** You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.

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, 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 I can't 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? (Lev. 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. This letter raises the question, "if we are going to enforce the Levitical law, you shall not lie with a male as with a woman, shouldn't we also embrace every other Levitical law, is it right to select one law and ignore all the others, when they are all recorded in the same legal document and code of holiness.

If you are still reading congratulations, I expect many would have clicked the escape key by now, whether you agree or disagree is fine since the goal of this study is not to tell people what to believe, but raise questions and hopefully lessen the hostility some heterosexual Christians have toward men and women who love the Lord Jesus Christ as much as we do, but for some medical, biological or genetic reason have a very real sexual orientation deeply-rooted and imbedded in their nature, that is naturally attracted toward people of the same sex gender, which is their natural disposition that cannot be changed.

If for a moment we set the Levitical Law aside, what are we to replace it with? The answer to this question of course is found in the New Testament, but before we look at what it says about the law, it should be mentioned that the people in focus in this study is not heterosexuals bedding same sex partners, for they are clearly acting against their natural sexual orientation and can at anytime, choose to return to partners of the opposite sex. Rather the focus here is upon men and woman who are naturally attracted toward people of the same sex gender.

Concerning the New Testament Law, the apostle Paul states:

- **Romans 7:4:** You have died to the law through the body of Christ.
- **Romans 7:6:** Now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.
- **Romans 10:4:** Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- **Galatians 3:23-26:** Before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.
- **2 Corinthians 3:6:** God has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- **Colossians 2:14:** God cancelled the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- **Hebrews 8:13:** 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.

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, saying, "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?" To which Jesus answered him by saying:

- **Matthew 22:36-40:** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

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The apostle Paul later echoed this idea in the following verse: -

- **Romans 13:8-10:** Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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 inflict pain, loss and harm on others and are therefore 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?" to which he answered concerning our relationship toward each other, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," and of which Paul said, "love is the fulfilling of the law." This is because the Spirit underpinning God's law is love because each law protects another human from harm. Not only does love do no harm to another person, but it also protects others from harm. This means that the answer to the question, "What is the law that we are to fulfil? Is the law of love, meaning do all things from love.

Concerning God's law Paul wrote:

- **Galatians 5:14:** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
- **Romans 13:10:** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

- James wrote:

- **James 2:8:** If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

These verses raise 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 some medical, biological or genetic reason a natural orientation and disposition toward people of the same sex gender and are living in a committed, loving and caring relationship in violation of the law of love?” Especially when we understand that they are being true to their own nature and sexual orientation, for they cannot love a person of the opposite sex, for such a thing would be repulsive and repugnant to them. It is most likely that this question will never be answered for some, because the boundaries surrounding the law of love, is to do everything within the confines of not harming or hurting anyone physically, financially, emotionally, sexually, mentally and spiritually.

Paul wrote:

- **Romans 7:4-6:** But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

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.

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- **Matthew 22:39:** Jesus said to him, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
- **Galatians 5:14:** For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
- **John 13:34:** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
- **Romans 13:10:** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

This means that the new life of the Spirit spoken of in the following verse refers to doing all things from love, in contrast to doing things from the written letter of the law.

- **Romans 7:4-6:** Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that you may bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Concerning faith, righteousness and salvation Paul wrote:

- **Philippians 3:9:** not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith
- **Galatians 2:16:** know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

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 them on the cross as the following verse show.

- **Galatians 2:21:** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.
- **Galatians 3:11:** Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”
- **Galatians 5:4-6:** You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Yet many good intentioned Christians still use the passages in Leviticus in an effort to demonstrate that homosexuals and lesbians 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.

NOTE: it should be kept in mind here that the word, “homosexual,” does not refer to heterosexual men bedding other heterosexual men, but to men who are for some medical, biological or genetic reason naturally attracted to other men.

With all the above facts in mind: there could be a danger, in casting men who love the lord Jesus Christ out of the church and judging them to eternal damnation, purely because they have a natural attraction to other men, for we may be bringing judgment upon ourselves. When Paul was talking to Jews who proclaimed a person must be circumcised to be saved, he 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, because only faith working through love counts for anything.

- **Galatians 5:1-6:** For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

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 in the same context that surround 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 Leviticus 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, 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 tell us if we embrace one Levitical law, we have to embrace all Levitical laws as the following verses show:

- **Galatians 3:10:** For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”
- **Romans 10:5:** For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.

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 were 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) as the following verses show.

- **Romans 7:6:** But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.
- **Galatians 5:18:** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- **Galatians 5:22-23:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

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 and if they love the Lord God with all their heart and with all their soul and with all their mind, they will not turn to idols or other god's, and are therefore by following the law of love fulfilling the two commandments that the whole law and the prophets depend on (Matt. 22:37-40).

THE SILENCE OF THE BIBLE

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
- 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.
- Are being true to their own nature and sexual orientation.

Concerning this group of people, the Scriptures seem to be silent, much like it is silent on masturbation, yet phycologists say that a great percentage of men and woman of all ages commonly practice it sometime during their life and many into their older years, yet the Bible remains silent. With these facts in mind, it seems reasonable to suppose that whenever the Bible does condemn same sex relationships it is referring to heterosexuals who chose to be sexually active with each other.

Added to this, those that are condemned are always pictured in the context of those who deny God are violent and rebellious and in some verses worship idols, which hardly fits same sex couples that are living true to their nature and sexual orientation in a committed loving relationship who love the Lord Jesus Christ and do good.

CONSIDER FOR A MOMENT

When we reject and condemn to eternal damnation those who love the Lord Jesus Christ simply because they for some medical, biological or genetic reason have a natural orientation and disposition toward the same sex, we may be 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 Christ's blood and God's grace.

Added to these no one is saved by the law as the following Scriptures show:

- **Galatians 2:16:** yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.
- **Galatians 2:21:** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.
- **Galatians 3:11:** Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith."

These Scriptures very clearly show that by works of the law no one will be justified, if justification were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

NOTE: it should not surprise us that the Bible appears silent regarding this unique group of people since the Bible teaches the perfect ideal (i.e. it is silent on masturbation yet according to psychologist almost everyone practices it at some time whether non-Christian or Christian male or female and many into their old age. Perhaps the great sin of genuine homosexuals and lesbians who love the Lord Jesus Christ and worship God is that their 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 because their sins are hidden. There is a possibility that those who condemn men and women that love the Lord Jesus Christ, are law abiding citizens and show kindness to others, who have for some medical, biological or genetic reason a natural attraction and disposition toward people of the same sex gender based on (Leviticus 18:22), maybe, projecting their own bias, or reading more into the text than is intended for the following four reasons:

1. These men and woman are living true to their nature and sexual orientation, for them to bed a partner of the opposite sex would not only be contrary to their nature, but also nauseating and repulsive.
2. Whenever bedding same sex partners is mention it is always in the context of violence, rape, God haters, idol worship, lust, using sex for money and having sex with small boys.
3. Christ's death and resurrection abolished the Levitical law.
4. All Christians are daily breaking at least one Levitical Law.

The New Testament does speak of:

- Women exchanging natural relations for those that are contrary to nature and of men giving up natural relations with women (Romans 1:26-27).
- Sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality (defile themselves with mankind in KJV) (1 Tim. 1:10)
- Men who practice homosexuality (effeminate, and abusers of themselves with mankind, in KJV) (1 Cor. 6:9).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE VERSES, SEE THE FOLLOWING TITLES

- God Gave them up to Dishonourable Passions. (Romans 1:24-27).
- Defile themselves with Mankind (1 Timothy 1:9-10).
- Abusers of Themselves (1Cor 6:9).

On the index of this study: Same Sex Relationships.

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 though myself and for that reason my aim in these articles is not to tell anyone what they should or should not believe. The aim is to simply present information that hopefully will help the reader come to their own conclusion, especially those who have been influenced to dehumanize homosexuals and lesbians by the collective consciousness of their generation (as I was), or who have been influenced by certain religious leaders to harshly judge, reject and condemn everyone to eternal damnation who is in a same sex relationship.
