



The Law and Sexuality

Leviticus 18

Where are we going this morning?

1. What does the Mosaic Law say about sexuality?
2. How do those laws apply to us, if at all?
3. If God did indeed restrict sexual expression, why did he do so?
4. How should each of us personally respond to God's laws in this area, especially if we have already broken them?



Where are we going this morning?

1. **What does the Mosaic Law say about sexuality?**
2. How do those laws apply to us, if at all?
3. If God did indeed restrict sexual expression, why did he do so?
4. How should each of us personally respond to God's laws in this area, especially if we have already broken them?



A Summary of Laws Relating to Sexuality

1. Sexual activity must not cross marital lines (Exodus 20:14,17; Leviticus 18:20).
2. Sexual activity prior to marriage must be followed by marriage (Exodus 22:16, Deuteronomy 22:28-29).
3. Incest and bestiality are prohibited (Exodus 18:23, Leviticus 18:6-18, Leviticus 20:15-16, Deuteronomy 27:20-23).
4. Homosexuality and cross-dressing are prohibited (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Deuteronomy 22:5).
5. Prostitution is prohibited (Deuteronomy 23:17-18).
6. Penalties are given for breaking such laws (Leviticus 20:10-21).



A Summary of Laws Relating to Sexuality

Sexual relations are limited to marriage between a man and a woman.



Where are we going this morning?

1. What does the Mosaic Law say about sexuality?
- 2. How do those laws apply to us, if at all?**
3. If God did indeed restrict sexual expression, why did he do so?
4. How should each of us personally respond to God's laws in this area, especially if we have already broken them?



The Case for Sexual Freedom

1. The Bible doesn't actually limit sexual activity in the ways we have been led to believe.



The Gospel of Inclusion

Brandan Robertson

“First, most of what the church has condemned throughout history has little to no biblical basis. For instance, if you ask almost any traditional Christian if premarital sex is sinful, they will immediately say ‘Yes!’ But ask them to show you where that comes from in Scripture and they will be forced to admit that there is not a single verse that says sex is only intended for a marriage relationship.”



The Case for Sexual Freedom

1. The Bible doesn't actually limit sexual activity in the ways we have been led to believe.
2. We are not obligated to obey the Old Testament laws, and the Bible demonstrates a progressively maturing ethic that is moving toward a more inclusive end.



The Gospel of Inclusion

Brandan Robertson

“Not only does Jesus consistently expand the teaching of Scripture to align with a higher ethical standard, but he consistently reinterprets ancient commands in a more inclusive manner...

...Jesus clearly has no problem amending Scripture to be more ethical and inclusive, and therefore it cannot be argued that Jesus was working from a paradigm even remotely similar to that of modern biblical inerrancy. For Jesus, the Bible was a living text, always evolving and always being brought nearer to ‘completion.’”



The Gospel of Inclusion

Brandan Robertson

“I have become convinced that the ethical trajectory of the Bible should lead Christians towards a position of greater inclusion and acceptance of those who have previously been considered “unclean,” and that the New Testament imperative of Jesus is to listen to and rely on the ongoing revelation of the Holy Spirit to guide our faith and practice.”



The Case for Sexual Freedom

1. The Bible doesn't actually limit sexual activity in the ways we have been led to believe.
2. We are not obligated to obey the Old Testament laws, and the Bible demonstrates a progressively maturing ethic that is moving toward a more inclusive end.
3. We often misdefine biblical terms, resulting in the condemnation of people and actions that were not intended to be condemned.



“You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.”

Inigo Montoya



1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality [arsenokoitai], nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



The Gospel of Inclusion

Brandan Robertson

“Again, most scholars agree that this again likely refers to some form of ritual rape or temple prostitution. But it is highly unlikely, contextually, to assume that *arsenokoitein* is referring to a committed sexual relationship between two consenting partners of the same sex.”



The Case for Sexual Freedom

1. **The Bible doesn't actually limit sexual activity in the ways we have been led to believe.**
2. We are not obligated to obey the Old Testament laws, and the Bible demonstrates a progressively maturing ethic that is moving toward a more inclusive end.
3. We often misdefine biblical terms, resulting in the condemnation of people and actions that were not intended to be condemned.



The Bible does indeed forbid pre-marital sex.

1. In the Law, if a man had sex with a woman he was not married to, he was required to marry her.



The Bible does indeed forbid pre-marital sex.

1. In the Law, if a man had sex with a woman he was not married to, he was required to marry her.
2. In the Law, if it was discovered that a married woman was not a virgin when she entered marriage, she could be punished, even with death.



The Bible does indeed forbid pre-marital sex.

1. In the Law, if a man had sex with a woman he was not married to, he was required to marry her.
2. In the Law, if it was discovered that a married woman was not a virgin when she entered marriage, she could be punished, even with death.
3. Old Testament narratives demonstrate that sex before marriage was seen as improper (Genesis 34, 2 Samuel 13).



The Bible does indeed forbid pre-marital sex.

1. In the Law, if a man had sex with a woman he was not married to, he was required to marry her.
2. In the Law, if it was discovered that a married woman was not a virgin when she entered marriage, she could be punished, even with death.
3. Old Testament narratives demonstrate that sex before marriage was seen as improper (Genesis 34, 2 Samuel 13).
4. The New Testament explicitly prohibits pre-marital sex when it prohibits sexual immorality.



Mark 7:21

For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, **sexual immorality**, theft, murder, **adultery**...



The Case for Sexual Freedom

1. The Bible doesn't actually limit sexual activity in the ways we have been led to believe.
2. **We are not obligated to obey the Old Testament laws, and the Bible demonstrates a progressively maturing ethic that is moving toward a more inclusive end.**
3. We often misdefine biblical terms, resulting in the condemnation of people and actions that were not intended to be condemned.



The New Covenant

1. It is true that we have transitioned from the Old Covenant to the New, and we are not obligated to directly obey the Old Covenant regulations.



The New Covenant

1. It is true that we have transitioned from the Old Covenant to the New, and we are not obligated to directly obey the Old Covenant regulations.
2. However, the New Covenant reiterates many of the Old Covenant commands, revealing a transcendent morality which we are certainly obligated to follow.



The New Covenant

1. It is true that we have transitioned from the Old Covenant to the New, and we are not obligated to directly obey the Old Covenant regulations.
2. However, the New Covenant reiterates many of the Old Covenant commands, revealing a transcendent morality which we are certainly obligated to follow.
3. The New Testament reiterates the Old Testament commands regarding sexual immorality, adultery, homosexuality, etc. In fact, the New Testament often even raises the standard.



1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.



1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.



Matthew 5:27-28

You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.” But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



The Case for Sexual Freedom

1. The Bible doesn't actually limit sexual activity in the ways we have been led to believe.
2. We are not obligated to obey the Old Testament laws, and the Bible demonstrates a progressively maturing ethic that is moving toward a more inclusive end.
3. **We often misdefine biblical terms, resulting in the condemnation of people and actions that were not intended to be condemned.**



What about *arsenokoitai*?

The most likely place that Paul drew this word from was Leviticus 18 and 20.

From the Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament):

Leviticus 18:22 *kai meta arsenos ou koimethese koiten gunaikos*
 (“you shall not lie with a male as with a woman...”)

Leviticus 20:13 *kai hos an koimethe meta arsenos koiten gunaikois* (and whoever shall lie with a male as with a woman...”)



Without using the word...

Romans 1:26-27 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.



Conclusion

Sexual relations are *still* limited to marriage between a man and a woman.



Where are we going this morning?

1. What does the Mosaic Law say about sexuality?
2. How do those laws apply to us, if at all?
- 3. If God did indeed restrict sexual expression, why did he do so?**
4. How should each of us personally respond to God's laws in this area, especially if we have already broken them?



Talking about Teleology

When dealing with design, we can assume that in most designs there are ultimate purposes and subordinate purposes.



What is the purpose of a car?



What is the purpose of a car?

1. Sitting
2. Protection from the elements
3. Storage
4. Looking good



What is the purpose of a car?

Subordinate Purposes

1. Sitting
2. Protection from the elements
3. Storage
4. Looking good

Ultimate Purpose

1. Transportation



What is the Ultimate Purpose of Marriage?



What is the Ultimate Purpose of Marriage?

To glorify God.



What is the Ultimate Purpose of Marriage?

To glorify God by reflecting the relational nature of God (along with the relationship he intends to have with us).



What is the Ultimate Purpose of Marriage?

To glorify God by reflecting the relational nature of God (along with the relationship he intends to have with us).

Characteristics of God's relational nature:

1. Unified diversity
2. Intense affection
3. Exclusive devotion
4. Enduring relationship
5. Expanding love



What is the Ultimate Purpose of Sex?



What is the Ultimate Purpose of Sex?

To glorify God by physically consummating marriage.



The Subordinate Purposes of Sex

1. A demonstration of the complimentary nature of gender | *Unified Diversity* (Genesis 1:27)
2. Pleasure | *Intense Affection* (Proverbs 5:18-19)
3. An expression of commitment | *Exclusive Devotion* (1 Corinthians 7:3-5, 10-11)
4. A means of binding hearts together | *Enduring Relationship* (1 Corinthians 6:16)
5. Procreation | *Expanding Love* (Genesis 1:28)



The Teleological Question: Why?

God did indeed constrain sexual relations to marriage between a man and a woman...and he did it purposefully for his glory and our good.



A sports car was not designed for off-roading, but for speed. Restricting its use to roads is not arbitrary or legalistic, but instead allows for the driver to experience the greatest satisfaction through the car's intended use.



Where are we going this morning?

1. What does the Mosaic Law say about sexuality?
2. How do those laws apply to us, if at all?
3. If God did indeed restrict sexual expression, why did he do so?
- 4. How should each of us personally respond to God's laws in this area, especially if we have already broken them?**



After all...

Most of us could respond to all of this in one of these two ways:

1. Everything within me longs for something outside of the Bible's sexual boundaries.
2. I've already broken God's laws in this area in big ways.



Truths to Believe

1. Jesus' posture toward the sexual sinner is open and receptive (Luke 7:36-50).



Truths to Believe

1. Jesus' posture toward the sexual sinner is open and receptive (Luke 7:36-50).
2. Jesus stands ready and eager to receive you into his love, but his love will not allow you to remain unchanged (John 5:14).



Truths to Believe

1. Jesus' posture toward the sexual sinner is open and receptive (Luke 7:36-50).
2. Jesus stands ready and eager to receive you into his love, but his love will not allow you to remain unchanged (John 5:14).
3. Accessing the forgiveness and transforming power of Jesus requires a willingness to admit that his ways are better than yours (Luke 9:23-24).



Three Invitations

1. Resolve to be transparent with sexual struggles.
2. Join us for our Gender Class on Saturday, September 30.
3. Join us for our Marriage Skills Retreat on October 27 and 28.



1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

