

God's Design for Sex

Leviticus 18:6-23

Read Leviticus 18:24-30

Big Idea: Israel Was to Follow the Way of the Lord and NOT the Way of the Nations.

I.) The Structure of the Passage

A.) Introduction: Follow the LORD, not the nations, for the way of the Lord leads to life. (18:1-5)

B.) Specific danger zones (18:6-23)

- False Sexual practices (vv. 6-20)
- False Worship (v. 21)
- False Sexual practices (vv. 22, 23)

C.) Conclusion: Follow the LORD, not the nations, for the way of the Nations leads to death. (18:24-30)

II.) The Prohibition of the Ways of the Nations

A.) Egypt and Canaan Are Merely Representatives of the Nations

B.) All the Nations Set Themselves Up Against God.

Psalm 2:1-3

1 John 5:19, "...the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one."

"sex is the effective religion of our culture." -Peter Kreeft

C.) God's Greatest Gifts Are the Ones the Nations Pervert the Most

1 Corinthians 6:16

"The young man who rings the bell at the brothel is unconsciously looking for God." —Bruce Marshall

"the ultimate reason (not the only one) why we are sexual is to make God more deeply knowable...The language and imagery of sexuality is the most graphic and most powerful that the Bible uses to describe the relationship between God and his people — both positively (when we are faithful) and negatively (when we are not)...God created us with sexual passion so that there would be language to describe what it means to cleave to him in love and what it means to turn away from him to other gods." —John Piper

Numbers 25:1-3

III.) The Way of the Lord Provides Safety

A.) The Lord Identifies the Danger.

B.) The Lord Defines the Danger.

Proverbs 5:3-5

C.) The Lord Warns Israel of the True Cost of This Danger.

i.) Sin Promises More Than it Can Deliver and Costs More Than It Advertises.

*"...An ever increasing craving for an ever diminishing pleasure"
—C.S. Lewis*

ii.) The Real Cost of Sexual Sin is Everything

IV.) Application for Us Today

A.) The Nations Are Still a Danger to the People of God.

B.) But God's Way Still Provides Safety

Read Hebrews 13:4

Read I Thessalonians 4:2-8

C.) Our Response

i.) Repent

1 Corinthians 6:18, "flee sexual immorality..."

ii.) Be Equipped

iii.) Purposefully Engage our Culture

Philippians 1:6, "...that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ,"

Romans 8:30, "...whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified."

*Romans 8:37-39, "**37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. **38** For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*Philippians 2:12-13, "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."*