

INTRODUCTION: Review

- Abraham ~ The Father of our Faith ~ idolater, adulterer, liar (Wk. 1)
- David ~ A Man After the Heart of God ~ murderer, adulterer (Wk. 1)
Chosen by God doesn't mean you're...
~better than other people
or
~less in need of His grace
God keeps His promise when we don't.
- Causes of Homosexuality (Wk. 2)

1. Old Testament Passages – The Writings of Moses
 - a. The **Law** – purity code of ancient Israel

The focus in this point is the examination of other laws requiring the same **punitive** measures as stated for “a man having sex with a man” in the Leviticus law..

- i. Leviticus 18:22
²² "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. (NIV)
- ii. Leviticus 20:13
¹³ "If a man has sex with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is abhorrent. They must be put to death; they are responsible for their own deaths. (MSG)

Other laws when broken requiring death:

- *Exodus 21: 12 Anyone who strikes a man and kills him shall surely be put to death.*
- *21:14 But if a man schemes and kills another man deliberately, take him away from my altar and put him to death.*
- *21:15 Anyone who attacks [Or kills] his father or his mother must be put to death.*
- *21:16 Anyone who kidnaps another and either sells him or still has him when he is caught must be put to death.*
- *21:17 Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.*
- *21:29 If, however, the bull has had the habit of goring and the owner has been warned but has not kept it penned up and it kills a man or woman, the bull must be stoned and the owner also must be put to death.*
- *22:19 Anyone who has sexual relations with an animal must be put to death.*

- *31:14 Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death;*
- *31:15 Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day must be put to death.*
- *35:2 Whoever does any work on it must be put to death.*
- *Leviticus 20:1-2 Any Israelite or any alien living in Israel who gives [Or sacrifices ; also in verses 3 and] any of his children to Molech must be put to death.*
- *20:9 If anyone curses his father or mother, he must be put to death.*
- *20:10 If a man commits adultery with another man's wife-with the wife of his neighbor-both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death.*
- *20:11 If a man sleeps with his father's wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.*
- *20:12 If a man sleeps with his daughter-in-law, both of them must be put to death.*
- *Then comes Lev. 20:13 listed above*
- *20:15 If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he must be put to death, and you must kill the animal.*
- *20:16 'If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They must be put to death;*
- *20:17 A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death.*
- *24:16 anyone who blasphemes the name of the LORD must be put to death.*
- *27:29 'No person devoted to destruction [The Hebrew term refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the LORD, often by totally destroying them.] may be ransomed; he must be put to death.*
- *Numbers 1:51 Whenever the tabernacle is to move, the Levites are to take it down, and whenever the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall do it. Anyone else who goes near it shall be put to death.*
- *3:10 Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary must be put to death.*
- *25:5 Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor.*
- *Deuteronomy 2:12 The man who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God must be put to death.*
- *18:20 But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death.*

- *21:18-21 18"Suppose a man has a stubborn, rebellious son who will not obey his father or mother... 21Then all the men of the town must stone him to death.*
- *21:22 If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree...*

While death is not required for most of these crimes today there is an attitude within the church that the "sin" of homosexuality was so detestable that God required death.

The scriptures we have just covered makes the point obvious by requiring the death of...

- people who attack their parents
- kidnappers
- people who curse their parents
- an unruly child
- people who work on the day of worship

The OT Law & Peter's Vision Acts 10:⁹ ... Peter went up on the roof to pray.¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners.¹² It contained all kinds of fourfooted animals, as well as reptiles of the earth and birds of the air.¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

¹⁴"Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

¹⁵The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

¹⁶This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

¹⁷While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate.¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

¹⁹While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three^{al} men are looking for you.²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along.²⁴ The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence.

²⁶But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself."

²⁷Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

²⁸He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

What can we learn from this act of God that changed certain human behavior from lawlessness to appropriate?

- God is the giver of law and Truth
- God has changed the law at times in scripture
- When the law was changed it was enlarged to include outcasts “Gentiles” never to allow people to become more self-centered or self-indulgent

iii. Deuteronomy 23:17-18

¹⁷No daughter of Israel is to become a sacred prostitute; and no son of Israel is to become a sacred prostitute. ¹⁸And don't bring the fee of a sacred whore or the earnings of a priest-pimp to the house of GOD, your God, to pay for any vow--they are both an abomination to GOD, your God. (MSG)

There is merit in arguing the points of God’s law that would protect Israel from being corrupted by the idolatry of Egypt and Canaan, specifically related to pagan temple worship involving corrupt rituals, i.e., male and female temple prostitution offered to fertility gods/goddesses and sacrificing children to Molech (Lev. 18).

These are also passages given as scriptural support against homosexuality even though temple prostitution can in no way be even similar to gay men and women of faith living in committed relationships. The issue here was idolatry.

b. Sodom and Gomorrah – Genesis 18 & 19

Genesis 18:²⁰GOD continued, "The cries of the victims in Sodom and Gomorrah are deafening; the sin of those cities is immense. ²¹I'm going down to see for myself, see if what they're doing is as bad as it sounds. Then I'll know."

Genesis 19:⁴Before they went to bed men from all over the city of Sodom, young and old, descended on the house from all sides and boxed them in. ⁵They yelled to Lot, "Where are the men who are staying with you for the night? Bring them out so we can have our sport with them!"

⁶Lot went out, barring the door behind him, ⁷and said, "Brothers, please, don't be vile! ⁸Look, I have two daughters, virgins; let me bring them out; you can take your pleasure with them, but don't touch these men--they're my guests."

(In this OT culture, women were possessions and not valued as equals.)

⁹They said, "Get lost! You drop in from nowhere and now you're going to tell us how to run our lives. We'll treat you worse than them!" And they charged past Lot to break down the door.

¹⁰But the two men reached out and pulled Lot inside the house, locking the door. ¹¹Then they struck blind the men who were trying to break down the door, both leaders and followers, leaving them groping in the dark.

¹²The two men said to Lot, "Do you have any other family here? Sons, daughters--anybody in the city? Get them out of here, and now!" ¹³We're going to destroy this place. The outcries of victims here to GOD are deafening; we've been sent to blast this place into oblivion."(MSG)

Why did God really destroy these two cities?

- Inhospitality? (so says some pro-gay theology)
- Homosexuality? (so says some traditionalists)

To say that God would have destroyed the entire population of two cities over being inhospitable is not believable in light of many greater offenses recorded elsewhere in scripture that did not illicit such a response from God. But to say that the group of men from Sodom and Gomorrah that stood in front of Lot's home, demanding that Lot turn over his two guests, believed to be men (not the angelic beings they were) for the sake of committing the violent act of gang rape against them is the same as two men or women having consensual sexual relations is as much a distortion. Without drawing any moral conclusions about same-sex relationships you cannot say that gang rape and consensual sexual relations are the same. They simply are not.

My thoughts:

Genesis 18:²⁰ GOD continued, "The cries of the victims in Sodom and Gomorrah are deafening; the sin of those cities is immense.

Think of the condition of a city whose men,

"men from all over the city of Sodom, young and old, descended on the house from all sides and boxed them in. ⁵They yelled to Lot, "Where are the men who are staying with you for the night? Bring them out so we can have our sport with them!" would behave in this manner. Lot said to them, "Brothers, please, don't be vile!"

Could you find a group of men/woman in our society you could convince to join you in doing such things? They may exist but I don't know of them personally.

This was indeed a “*vile*” people who had *victimized* people to the point that their “*deafening cries*” for mercy reached Heaven and God decided to *act*.

CONCLUSION: Questions / Next week: New Testament passages