

Foothills Christian Assembly Sermon January 16, 2022
Leviticus 18 "You make me sick!"

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the Lord your God. 3 According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. 4 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.

6 'None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the Lord. 7 The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. 8 The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness. 9 The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover. 10 The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness. 11 The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father--she is your sister--you shall not uncover her nakedness. 12 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father. 13 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. 14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. 15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law--she is your son's wife--you shall not uncover her nakedness. 16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. 17 You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. 18 Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

19 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity.

20 Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

21 And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

23 Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. 25 For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. 26 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations, either any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you 27 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), 28 lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. 29 For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people. 30 Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: I am the Lord your God.'

I. Introduction

- a. What is your response when you see the people in our generation rejecting God's Law? When you see the Church rejecting God's Law? What should our response be? Today, we will be examining this question in light of Leviticus 18 and other Scriptures, especially in regard to God's Laws governing the sanctity of human sexuality and the sanctity of human life. In America, today is sanctity of human life Sunday, falling annually on the Sunday prior to January 22nd, the infamous date upon which Roe v Wade was decided in 1973. In addition, today is the day chosen by faithful pastors in Canada to preach on Biblical human sexuality, in response to a new Canadian law (C-4) that attacks God, His Word, His people, and His pastors. C-4 is a law specifically prohibiting "conversion therapy". This could outlaw Biblical teaching, preaching and counseling designed to help homosexuals, transgenders, and others caught in such sins to repent, believe in Christ, and be free and truly blessed. It's conceivable this sermon I'm preaching right now could get me thrown into prison for up to 5 years in Canada.
- b. Some Biblical responses
 - i. David wept and wept as he considered the world around him. "Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law." (Ps 119:136) David saw men disregarding God's Law, and his response was to cry before God. In addition, David's zeal for God's holiness was stirred up when his enemies ignored God's Law. "My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your words." (Ps 119:139)
 - ii. Ezra was heartbroken as he cried out to God regarding Israel's sin. "...Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God..." (Ezra 10:1)
 - iii. Nehemiah was deeply moved and took decisive action when he saw God's Law spurned. "And it grieved me bitterly; therefore, I threw all the household goods of Tobiah out of the room."
 - iv. Jesus wept over Jerusalem as He considered the coming total destruction of that lawless city. "41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation." (Lk 19)
- c. Today, as we consider the public, civil and ecclesiastical disregard for God's Law, how will we respond? Will we be appropriately moved by God's Word and God's Spirit? Or will we avert our eyes, deny reality, shield our hearts, and embrace fantasy and apathy?
- d. Today, I will seek to persuade you that we should be at least as disturbed as the land, and that this deep disgust over lawlessness flows to God's people from God's heart toward lawlessness. Three times in Leviticus 18, God references the

land vomiting out the people who engage in abominable lawlessness. I believe if we could hear the land of America speaking, it would be saying, "You make me sick!" The nausea of this land is mounting and churning, and apart from repentance, a seismic wrenching and writhing of God's wrath will expel these abominations and those who embrace them.

- II. God gives us His Law for our good, that we may know Him, love Him, serve Him and experience the joys of His design for life. (v5)
 - a. "Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'I am the Lord your God. 3 According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. 4 You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord."
 - i. Those who are opposed to God's Law will often claim the opposite. They will claim that the Law of God is an attack on humanity, an offense to human freedom, and an expression of intolerant hatred. They are deceived.
- III. The relationship between sexual perversion and the murder of babies v21
 - a. "And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord."
 - i. It is worth noting that the Lord places this commandment immediately after the prohibitions against sexual sins that have the potential for pregnancy (incest, unclean sexual habits, adultery). Whenever men ignore God's Law regarding sexuality, undesired pregnancies will occur, and the murder of babies will ensue.
 - ii. When we stand outside the abortion mill, we know mass murder is occurring inside those doors 5 days per week. But, that's not all we see. All forms of lawlessness are on display there. Idolatry. Blasphemy. Profanity. Hatred toward God and His Law. Violence. Fornication. Adultery. Hatred of marriage. Lying. Covetousness. Theft. Violations of God's commandments regarding sexuality rarely occur alone.
 - iii. What occurred in 1973 was the inevitable foul fruit of a nation that had embraced sexual lawlessness and that did not want to bear the consequences. Get pregnant because of sexual immorality? No problem: kill the baby. Don't want to stop with the incest, sexual abuse, fornication and adultery out of pregnancy concerns? No worries: we can kill the baby inside the womb.
 - iv. White House Proclamation January 2021 "Every human life is a gift to the world. Whether born or unborn, young or old, healthy or sick, every person is made in the holy image of God. The Almighty Creator gives unique talents, beautiful dreams, and a great purpose to every person. On National Sanctity of Human Life Day, we celebrate the wonder of human existence and renew our resolve to build a culture of life where every person of every age is protected, valued, and cherished. This

month, we mark nearly 50 years since the United States Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. This constitutionally flawed ruling overturned State laws that banned abortion, and has resulted in the loss of more than 50 million innocent lives. But strong mothers, courageous students, and incredible community members and people of faith are leading a powerful movement to awaken America's conscience and restore the belief that every life is worthy of respect, protection, and care."

- b. Every human being is made by God in His image, and so every human being is endowed with dignity of Divine origin. To attack a human being, an image-bearer of God, is an attack against God Himself.
 - i. Gen 1:26-28 "26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.""
 - ii. Both man and woman are created by God in His image.
 - iii. Note also how fruitfulness of the womb is here associated with being made in God's image. God's image-bearers are called to not only cherish and protect others made in God's image, but also to participate in bringing new image-bearers to the earth to honor God and do His will.
- c. Human life begins inside the womb, at the moment of conception. This is a Biblical teaching and a scientific reality.
 - i. Psalm 139:13 "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb."
 - ii. Psalm 51:5 "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." – note David refers to himself as "me" at the moment of his conception.
- d. The civil magistrate was established by God to punish evildoers, those who carry out criminal activity, as defined by His Holy Law.
 - i. Genesis 9:5,6 "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. 6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man."
 - ii. Romans 13:1-4 "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will

have praise from the same. 4 For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.”

- e. To refuse to punish those who spill innocent blood is to bring guilt upon the entire land. God’s wrath rests upon a land and people who permit murder of the innocent. (Deut 21:9, et al)
 - i. Deuteronomy 21:9 ““So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the LORD.”

IV. America: guilty like the Egyptians and Canaanites

a. Incest (v6-18)

- i. US Dept of Justice “Authorities estimate incest occurs in over 10 percent of American families, yet only 20 percent of these offenses are reported.”
- ii. In 2020, there were approximately 128,450,000 families in America. So, the estimate is that 1,284,500 American families have incest occurring within the family.

b. Unclean Sexual Habits (v19)

- i. “Customary impurity” – there are numerous forms of sexual impurity occurring in America today. These will not be mentioned in today’s sermon, but would certainly add to our groaning and spiritual nausea.
- ii. It seems fitting to bring up pornography industry here.
- iii. Startling statistics- https://enough.org/stats_porn_industry_archives
 - 1. 26 popular children's characters, such as Pokemon, My Little Pony and Action Man, revealed thousands of links to porn sites. 30% were hard-core. (Envisional 2000)
 - 2. Nearly 74 percent of pornography websites surveyed display adult content on their homepage (accessible to anyone) before asking if the viewers are of legal age. [11]
 - 3. American children begin consuming hardcore pornography at an average age of 11
 - 4. Four out of five 16 year-olds regularly access pornography online
 - 5. The pornography industry is a \$97 billion business worldwide,
 - 6. The pornography industry is a \$13 billion is in the United States.
 - 7. Internet pornography in the United States is a \$3 billion industry.
- iv. More startling statistics - <https://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/15-mind-blowing-statistics-about-pornography-and-the-church>
 - 1. Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites. The average visit lasts 6 minutes and 29 seconds
 - 2. There are around 42 million porn websites, which totals around 370 million pages of porn.
 - 3. The porn industry’s annual revenue is more than the NFL, NBA, and MLB combined. It is also more than the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC.

4. 47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home. Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.
5. 11 is the average age that a child is first exposed to porn, and 94% of children will see porn by the age of 14.
6. 56% of American divorces involve one party having an “obsessive interest” in pornographic websites.
7. 70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.
8. 68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis. Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.
9. 59% of pastors said that married men seek their help for porn use.
10. 33% of women aged 25 and under search for porn at least once per month.
11. Only 13% of self-identified Christian women say they never watch porn—87% of Christian women have watched porn.
12. 55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.
13. 57% of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation. 69% say porn has adversely impacted the church.

c. Adultery (v20)

- i. “According to the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, 15 percent of married women and 25 percent of married men have admitted to having extramarital affairs. But other statistics suggest the numbers may be even higher than that.”
- ii. 62,340,000 married couples as of 2020
 1. That’s approximately 9,351,000 women who have committed adultery in America
 2. And approximately 15,585,000 men who have committed adultery in America
- iii. Divorce rate is between 40-50% of all marriages in America

d. Murder of babies (v21)

- i. “And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.”
- ii. Watch the videos created with the help of Dr. Anthony Levatino. www.Abortionprocedures.com
 1. It appears these videos may have been scrubbed from the internet.
- iii. When you see and ponder what is being done to babies in America, it will surely add to you spiritual nausea.

e. Homosexuality (v22)

what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin."

- ii. Confess sin, repent and walk in newness of life by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord!
- b. Hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - i. If we repent, God will relent
 - 1. Remember the story of Jonah
 - 2. Jeremiah 18:7,8 "7 The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it."
 - ii. Atonement cleanses a defiled land
 - 1. Deut 21:1-9 "1 "If anyone is found slain, lying in the field in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess, and it is not known who killed him, 2 then your elders and your judges shall go out and measure the distance from the slain man to the surrounding cities. 3 And it shall be that the elders of the city nearest to the slain man will take a heifer which has not been worked and which has not pulled with a yoke. 4 The elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a valley with flowing water, which is neither plowed nor sown, and they shall break the heifer's neck there in the valley. 5 Then the priests, the sons of Levi, shall come near, for the Lord your God has chosen them to minister to Him and to bless in the name of the Lord; by their word every controversy and every assault shall be settled. 6 And all the elders of that city nearest to the slain man shall wash their hands over the heifer whose neck was broken in the valley. 7 Then they shall answer and say, 'Our hands have not shed this blood, nor have our eyes seen it. 8 Provide atonement, O Lord, for Your people Israel, whom You have redeemed, and do not lay innocent blood to the charge of Your people Israel.' And atonement shall be provided on their behalf for the blood. 9 So you shall put away the guilt of innocent blood from among you when you do what is right in the sight of the Lord"
 - iii. Weep for America (Lamentations as our prayer guide)
 - 1. "For these things I weep; My eye, my eye overflows with water; Because the comforter, who should restore my life, Is far from

me. My children are desolate Because the enemy prevailed." Lam
1:16

- c. Pray and Fast for our nation
- d. Use your political privileges
- e. Promote the truth: Support godly pro-life, anti-porn, pro-Law groups (prayer, \$)
- f. Evangelism
- g. Public opposition to these abominations. Not silence.