

Leviticus 20

1Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, he shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. 3 I will set My face against that man, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name. 4And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives some of his descendants to Molech, and they do not kill him, 5 then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and I will cut him off from his people, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech. 6 And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. 7Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God. 8And you shall keep My statutes, and perform them: I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 9 ‘For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His blood shall be upon him. 10‘The man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, he who commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death. 11The man who lies with his father’s wife has uncovered his father’s nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. 12If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death. They have committed perversion. Their blood shall be upon them. 13If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. 14If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is wickedness. They shall be burned with fire, both he and they, that there may be no wickedness among you. 15If a man mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death, and you shall kill the animal. 16If a woman approaches any animal and mates with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood is upon them. 17‘If a man takes his sister, his father’s daughter or his mother’s daughter, and sees her nakedness and she sees his nakedness, it is a wicked thing. And they shall be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered his sister’s nakedness. He shall bear his guilt. 18If a man lies with a woman during her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has exposed her flow, and she has uncovered the flow of her blood. Both of them shall be cut off from their people. 19‘You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother’s sister nor of your father’s sister, for that would uncover his near of kin. They shall bear their guilt. 20If a man lies with his uncle’s wife, he has uncovered his uncle’s nakedness. They shall bear their sin; they shall die childless. 21If a man takes his brother’s wife, it is an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother’s nakedness. They shall be childless. 22‘You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. 23And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation which I am casting out before you; for they commit all these things, and therefore I abhor them. 24But I have said to you, “You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.” I am the LORD your God, who has separated you from the peoples. 25You shall therefore distinguish between clean animals and unclean, between unclean birds and clean, and you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast or by bird, or by any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground, which I have separated from you as unclean. 26And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine. 27‘A man or a woman who is a medium, or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death; they shall stone them with stones. Their blood shall be upon them.’ ”

Sanctity of the Church: Guarding the Holiness of the Holy People

Main idea: Congregations of sinful saints must maintain church discipline, so that sin is never tolerated in the Lord's holy church

Introduction: Comparing ch18 (sanctity of marriage) and ch20 (sanctity of the church). Penalties for preserving corporate holiness. The holy Lord has the right to determine penalties. (n.b. the various specified penalties)

- 1. Don't tolerate sin in your heart or life.** "His blood is upon him" (v9, 12, 13, 16, 27). e.g. covenant children (v9, cf. Ex 21:17)
- 2. Don't tolerate sin in the church.** God punishes those who participate in tolerating sin. Discipline reflects His setting His face against sinners, and His cutting sinners off from His people (cf. v19–21). Excommunication worse than execution—and absolutely necessary.
- 3. Don't tolerate sin in the nation.** A nation can only be ruled by the true God or wickedness. Molech (v3, 4, 5). Vomiting out (v22, cf. Rev 3:16). The Lord's abhorring nations (v23).

Conclusion: we mustn't let sympathy to sinners (self or otherwise) turn into sympathy to sin.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Leviticus chapter 20. These are God's words. Then you always spoke to Moses saying. Again, you shall say to the children of israel.

Whoever of the children of israel or of the strangers, who dwell in israel. That gives any of his descendants to molec. He shall surely be put to death. The people of the land shall stone him. I will set my face against that man. And we'll cut him off from his people.

Because he has given some of his descendants to mullah. To defile my sanctuary. And profane. My holy name. And if the people of the land should in any way, Hide their eyes from the men. When he gives some of his descendants to molec, And they do not kill him.

Then i will set my face against that man. And against his family. And i will cut them off from his people. And all. Who prostitute themselves with him? To commit harlotry. With molok. And the person who turns to mediums, And familiar spirits to prostitute himself with them. I will set my face against that person.

And cut them off from his people. Consecrate yourselves. Therefore And be holy. For i am y'all for your god. And you shall keep my statutes and perform them. I am yahweh. Who sanctifies you? For everyone who curses his father. Or his mother. Shall surely be put to death? He has cursed his father or his mother.

His blood. Shall be upon him. The man who commits adultery with another man's wife. He who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer, and the adulteress. Shall surely be put to death? The man who lies with his father's wife, as uncovered, his father's nakedness, Both of them shall surely.

Be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, Both of them shall be. Surely be put to death. They have committed perversion. They're blonde. Shall be upon them. If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, Both of them have committed, an abomination.

They saw surely be put to death. Their blood. Shall be upon them. If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is wickedness. They shall be burned with fire. But he, and they That there may be no wickedness among you. If a man-mates with an animal, he shall surely be put to death.

And you shall kill the animal. If a woman approaches any animal and mates so that you shall kill the woman. And the animal. The shall surely be put to death. Their blood. Is upon them. If a man takes his sister. His father's daughter or his mother's daughter. And sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness.

It is a wicked thing. They shall be cut off in the sight of their people. He has uncovered, his sister's nakedness. He shall bear his guilt. If a man lies of the woman during her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he is exposed her flow. And she has uncovered the flow of her blood.

Both of them shall be cut off. From their people. He should not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister. Nor of your father's sister. For that would uncover his near of kin. They shall bear their guilt. If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he is uncovered, his uncle's nakedness.

They shall bear their sin. They shall die. Childless. If a man takes his brother's wife, it is an unclean thing. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness. They shall be. Childless. You shall therefore. Keep all my statutes. And all my judgments and perform then. That the land where i am bringing you to dwell, may not vomit you out.

And you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation, which i am casting out before you For, they commit all these things and therefore i abhor them. But i have said to you, You shall inherit their land, i will give it to you to possess a land flowing with milk and honey.

I am yahweh, your god. Who has separated you from the peoples. You shall therefore distinguish. Between cleaned animals and unclean between unclean, birds and clean. And you shall not make yourselves abominable by beast, or by bird or any kind of living thing that creeps on the ground. Which i have separated from you as unclean.

You shall be holy to me. For all i am holy. And have separated you from the peoples. That you Should be mine. A man or a woman who is a medium or who has familiar spirits, shall surely be put to death. Stone them was stones. Their blood. Shall be upon them.

And the sends this reading of gods inspired. And an errant worked. As god's holy people that he had redeemed for himself from the nation's. Of the world specifically from the nations of the land of Canaan. Uh, we heard in chapter 18, that the people of Israel were To treat marriage as holy.

And, There was much there. That we have repeated now in Leviticus 20. Although there are a number of other things Uh, more than Uh, there's less of a concentration merely on. The.

Holiness. The sanctity of marriage and the sanctity. Of the marriage bed. There are more things mixed in here.

In chapter 20. And yet, the primary principle is the same that god has consecrated for himself a people. But in this case, the focus in chapter 20 is especially on god consecrating israel to himself corporately. And so this is the chapter in which we have Both ecclesiastical penalties cut off from his people.

And civil penalties execution. Both of which, of course, apply to israel because israel is both a church and a state at the same time. But the penalty is here are given and the context of maintaining the holiness of the nation. That the land. Not be defiled, he says that his name not be profaned, and for this reason whereas offering children to molec appeared in the middle of chapter 18, it appears at the beginning of chapter 20, as a bookend of what it looks like to belong to mullah on the one hand so that, you offer your children a sacrifice and then the other book end of the chapter.

But it looks like to belong to the lord to long to yahweh Jehovah. On the other hand, who is holy and therefore, his people must be holy. Loosely title. Uh, chapter 18, the sanctity of marriage. Uh, we might Rather title chapter 20. The sanctity of the church. And that is guarding the holiness.

Of god's holy people. Now, the primary application. Uh, for Uh, for this in that context, the people who have been consecrated by redemption under the lord and the inflicting of penalties by the corporate body, that reflect what god is doing in heaven. The primary continuing application of this is x communication.

For the church does not now have the power of the sword not being itself, the state. And so there are ongoing applications for states. But as far as the consecration of the church and maintaining the holiness of the people, we do have a focus here Uh, for us on excommunication now.

That is not the lesser. Of the two penalties. It is an ungodly and short-sighted people. That think of excommunication as a lighter penalty. Than execution. And we see that, In the opening of. Section. Where he says, whoever of the children of Israel or the strangers who dwell in israel who gives any of his descendants to molec.

He shall surely be put to death, the people of the land shall stone him with stones. That's actually the lesser. Part of the consequence. The greater part. Is i will set my face. Against that man. And we'll cut him off. From his people. Now, when you think about who israel is and who God is, Which is the greater of the two.

To be stoned by the people of israel. Or to have the face of the god of israel set against you. And to be cut off covenantly in a way. That what's implied here? Continues. Even after death. It is a dreadful penalty. And it is a penalty. That applies not only to those who have done it.

But if the people of god, Do not apply the Penalties of god. Then god says he's going to do that to the people as a whole. He's gonna apply the same penalty. To those who did not carry out. In the analogy. The church discipline. You see, the The great weightiness that god places upon the holiness of his church, the consecration of his church.

To himself. Indeed, we heard. Just this morning as we often do, we don't always read to the end of first corinthians 11. At the table. But the lord himself continues to do this, doesn't he? That if the church does not carry out to church discipline like it should which we know is a problem in Corinth.

From chapter 5 and chapter 6. Of that same letter. And the church as maintaining its discipline. So poorly that you have the kind of behavior that they were having at the table. The lord's supper and the Corinthian worship. Than the lord begins, afflicting and killing. Even from among the congregation, Chastening them.

In order. To consecrate and cleanse maintain the holiness. Of his church. Well, what then is our first response. To the necessity of these things in the first response is not to tolerate sin in our own art or our own life. You have that refrain in verse 9, verse 12, verse 13, verse 16 and then almost as if it were at a place But it's the bible.

So we know that it is not out of place. At the end verse 27, reminding us one last time at the end. It is we who do it to ourselves by sin. That the sin itself. Is. Is the great harm. That is done. And so this repeated his blood is upon him.

His blood is upon. His blood. There's upon him. So, do not tolerate sin in your heart. Or in your life. And although modern psychotherapy had not been invented. By Leviticus 20 verse 9. We must be careful that we do not blame. Father, or mother. Or curse or revile them.

As if our sin. Is somehow their fault. We know from the bible that we are sinners. Because they are sinners. Specifically, because our father, Is a sinner. But the one who curses father or mother, And, This itself is, A very Serious cursing. It's the It's the same as back in, exodus 21 verse 17 and the child who decides That their parents carry no weight with them.

Uh, we might Uh, we might use the word denouncing, although there is The hateful and despising. Um, And reviving. Aspect of it. And back in Exodus 21:17 there in the book of the covenant, it was collected with some other sins that destabilize the the community as a whole particularly Uh, Thinking about the the community from a civil.

Uh perspective, but here Uh, thinking about the community more from the ecclesiastical or the church. Perspective, this is added. His blood. Shall be upon him. In other words, What they have done. From their own hearts. Has already done and god setting his face against them. Has already done in heaven.

And this is the hardest thing of all, especially if we understand That it's actually something worse than death. But praise god excommunication at age of the gospel has actually something you can come back from. The cutting off from among god's people, the being put out of the covenant isn't final.

They may yet be recovered by repentance and restored and bless God. We even have. We even have instruction in the second letter to the Corinthians. By the spirit for how to restore. The one who has repented, But it still is a dreadful thing. That. Would be put out of the church.

That one would be to use. The new testament language. Handed over to satan. Or to use the language here. Would have god's face. Set against them and our hearts break. Or ought to break for anyone. Anyone at all upon whom this comes Let alone a child. Put on our own child.

And so it is a reminder, from god. That their blood is already upon them. That is to say. What is done by the church on earth and particularly the officers of the church? When we see this in matthew, 16 and matthew 18, even in the grammar, What you bind will have been bound.

What you lose on earth will have been loosed in heaven, using that? Um, That perfect tense. Meaning a tense of a completed in the past action. Uh, even in Future perfect tense, but the

idea is The reality on earth is being brought into conformity. With a reality that already existed in heaven.

Why would God do that? Well, so that both those who are in the church and those who are out of the church, May be warned about the heavenly and weighty spiritual reality. And so that what has done in the church? Will reflect. That reality. Now children, you know? That the scriptures tell you to obey your parents.

In the lord. That it is the grace of christ in those who belong to him by faith. That makes your heart to honor your father and mother. So that your hands. Will obey your father and mother. And your lips will bless. Your father and mother. So, we must not tolerate sin in our heart or life.

And certainly we must not as we have already begun to hear. Tolerate sin in the church. As we pointed out from the opening versus god, punishes those Who participate in the toleration of his sin. He is the one who sets his face against sinners. And he is the one who in the ultimate.

And and heavenly and spiritual way. Cuts centers off. From his people. There are penalties throughout this chapter. That the lord himself. Has to. Inflict. Uh, for instance. The childlessness in verse 20. And especially the one in verse 21. Because even if we interpret verse 20, meaning execute them before, they are able to bear children.

Then we still have the problem of verse 21, because there's no execution. Mentioned in that one. And so this childlessness is something that the lord himself providentially. Inflicts. Again, x communication is worse than execution. And it is absolutely necessary. God shows the intimate way in which he is involved in the discipline of his people in the punishment among his people, even by giving different punishments for the different ones.

Some are particularly beast turned with stones. Some are particularly to be burned with fire. Some are generally. To be killed, others are simply to to be cut off and excommunicate. It But the lord being the lord. He was, uh, he Uh, reserves for himself the prerogative. Have deciding which penalty is in which, Okay.

So we're not to tolerate sin in our heart or in our life. And we are not tolerate sin in the church, then, And we also are not to tolerate sin in the nation. They're only two possibilities. For the rule of the nation. That is either ruled by the one true god or is his ruled by wickedness.

Now, in the case of molec, Molec, wasn't anything. Except that he was. Or at least, there was a demon. Presenting itself as molach. This, the apostle teaches us in 1st Corinthians chapter 10 as well. Although we have seen a couple of times, evan, twee The sacrifices to the idol gods of the nations.

In leviticus described a sacrifices to demons. And so there is only god or the demonic. Which means? That the one who trusts in the state. And who has a state religion? Of pure materialism. And supposed secular humanism Are they being duped by demons any less than a state that thinks that it is worshiping and serving a god of stone or a god of metal?

That requires event. The sorts of perversions and murders and violence. That any non-theistic. Non-Christian? Government. Ends up. Producing in its own. Nation. You see god still makes lands. To vomit out their peoples. It wasn't just Israel. That was threatening threatened to be vomited out of this land wasn't.

He says in verse 22.

You shall therefore, keep all my statutes and all my judgments and perform them that the land. I am bringing you to dwell where I am bringing you to dwell. May not vomit you out, you shall not walk in the statutes of the nation, which I am casting out before you for they commit all these things and therefore, I Abhor them.

And so this is the great problem facing every nation that there has ever been in the earth. Not the economy, stupid. Sorry, kids. That was a phrase from before your time. Not just that the economy may fail, not just that the other nation may invade not just that The plague or pestilence may come or the rumor of plague and pestilence may bring tyranny.

Or any of these other secondary things. The number one problem facing any nation in the history of the world. Is if god abhors them. Is if the nation does not own the one, true and living god as the god of that nation. And now That he has revealed himself in his son.

And his son has all authority in heaven and on earth. If that nation is resisting. Even the lord Jesus Christ and refusing to be ruled by him. And so, although the bulk of the chapter is actually, Applied now to the church, not having god vomit. The church out. So god is the great location of the church as it were.

You remember the church in Iodasia? Which is neither hot nor cold, and was self-satisfied, and rich. And the lord threatened that he would vomit them out. Which is. Um, You know, the parallel punishment to The church and Ephesus and the threat to remove their lampstand. And so there are warnings against churches.

But they're also warnings against nations. Aren't they aren't there? This is something that the church to speak plainly to the state about. That we are provoking. The one true. God, we are provoking. The righteous king. The lord Jesus. And we are making him to abhor us and he will cast us out of our land.

And yet the primary applications for each of us. It begins with don't bring your blood upon your own head. Don't tolerate sin in your own heart. Don't tolerate sin in your own life. The lord does not permit the church to tolerate sin in the church. And he will vomit a church out and he will remove a church's landstand.

As we've cycle through the different areas of prayer in the midweek meeting, How often we come back to praying for those who are under the yoke of Islamic tyranny, But we recognize that this is Jesus Christ's righteous response. To the unfaithfulness of the churches that were in those areas.

That are now covered by Islam. And this nation also, Must not tolerate sin. So, let us not let sympathy Towards sinners. Whether it is towards ourselves or towards others, which is a right thing. To have sympathy towards sinners. But let us not let sympathy towards sinners. Turn into sympathy towards sin.

For that is the most hateful thing that we can have. That was the most hateful thing that we can do. To another sinner. And then, let's pray. How gracious God and our heavenly father. We thank you that. Not only are you holy, but you have joined us. To your holy son.

By the work of your holy spirit. And so we pray that you would make each of us. Holy That we would be in tolerant. Of every last sin that remains within us. And all of the sin that we commit, And we pray for our congregation and for other congregations.

The discipline might be faithfully exercised according to your word. So that the reality in The formal outward life of the church on earth. Would closely follow upon and mirror. The actual

spiritual realities before heaven. And we do pray, o lord for our nation. As we have. Just considered a passage that reminds us that you abhor nations.

And how much oh lord, this nation. Has already. Um, Been displayed to be under your wrath and continues to provoke. You And so we pray for repentance. Not only in each of our hearts, not only for our congregation and for churches, generally. But we do. Pray for repentance of the nation in this land.

We ask all these things. Oh, lord, in the name of your son, the king. And our savior. Even the lord jesus. Amen.