



Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13—The Purity Laws



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18:22 Do not practice homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman. It is a detestable sin. (abomination)

13 “If a man practices homosexuality, having sex with another man as with a woman, both men have committed a detestable act. (abomination) They must both be put to death, for they are guilty of a capital offense.

- Notice the absence of any law regarding female same sex behavior?**



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- **Notice the absence of any law regarding female same sex behavior?**
 - **In ancient Near Eastern culture, women generally held a lower legal and social status than men, often being treated within the framework of family property and inheritance.**
 - **They were to be subordinate—men in charge and dominate.**
 - **For one of the men in a sexual encounter to be treated as one would treat a woman, the man would have been taking a lower status. In that culture, treating a man “as a woman” in a sexual act was viewed as humiliating and lowering his social status.**



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- **The Word Abomination**
 - **תועבה – Teovah**
 - Culturally taboo, detestable and forbidden
 - Genesis 49:30—Every shepherd was “teovah” unto the Egyptians.
 - Pharaoh was so moved by the fourth plague, that while he refused the demand of Moses, he offered a compromise, granting to the Israelites permission to hold their festival and offer their sacrifices in Egypt. This permission could not be accepted, because Moses said they would have to sacrifice "the abomination of the Egyptians" (Exodus 8:26); i.e., the cow or ox, which all the Egyptians held as sacred and so regarded as sacrilegious to kill.



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- The Word Abomination (a few things considered Teovah in the Law)
 - תועבה –Teovah
 - Idolatry Deut 7, 13, and Isa 44
 - Illicit sex (prostitution, adultery, incest) Ezek 16, 22, and 33
 - Illicit Marriage Deut 24
 - Male Prostitution Lev 18, 20
 - Temple Prostitution 1 Kings 14
 - Child Sacrifice Jer 32
 - Cross Dressing Deut 22
 - Using rigged scales Deut 25, Prov 11
 - Dishonesty Prov 12
 - Eating Non-Kosher Foods Deut 14
 - Usury, oppressing the poor and needy Ezek 18



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The Holiness Code of the OT, was written to distinguish the Hebrews, morally and ritually, from the Babylonians and Canaanites.

- The prohibition against consuming the naturally dead (Leviticus 17:15–16)
- The order to make trespass offerings after sexual involvement with an engaged slavewoman (Leviticus 19:20–22)
- The prohibition against an anointed high priest uncovering his head or rending his clothes (Leviticus 21:10)
- The prohibition against offerings by Aaronic priests who are blemished (Leviticus 21:21–22)
- The order to keep the sabbath, passover, and feast of unleavened bread (Leviticus 23:1–10a)
- The order to keep Yom Kippur, and Sukkot (Leviticus 23:23–44)
- The order for continual bread and oil (Leviticus 24:1–9)
- Case law concerning a blasphemer (Leviticus 24:10–15a and 24:23)
- The order for a trumpet sounding on Yom Kippur (Leviticus 25:9b)
- Rules concerning redeeming property (Leviticus 25:23 and 25:26–34)
- Order to release Israelite slaves at the year of jubilee (Leviticus 25:40, 25:42, 25:44–46)
- Rules concerning redeeming people (Leviticus 25:48–52, and 25:54)

Most Christian traditions understand the Holiness Code as part of Israel's covenant law rather than a binding code for the Church today.



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What does the New Testament say about the “Purity Laws?”

The New Testament repeatedly teaches that believers are no longer under the Mosaic law as a covenant system.

4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. 6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

ROMANS 7:4-6



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What does the NT say about the “Purity Laws?”

Grace sets us free to walk in Freedom!

- **Not the freedom to commit sin**
- **The freedom to hear and follow the voice of The Holy Spirit**

