INTRO

Read This Week’s Passage:
Leviticus 18; 20

COUNTERCULTURAL

Leviticus 18 is all about upholding sexual integrity in a society overrun with sexual perversions. This chapter and the laws given within protect both women and children from sexual abuse. These laws expound on the seventh commandment: “You shall not commit adultery” (Exod. 20:14). There are some today who pride themselves in not breaking this commandment since they have not cheated on their spouse, but this chapter expands the meaning of “adultery” to include a variety of perversions.

Before we look at some of the issues discussed in this chapter, let’s remember that God created sex, one of the most wonderful bonding experiences in life (Gen. 1:27, 28; 2:25). He deserves the credit and a generation of people who practice sexuality as He designed it.

In direct contrast to the beliefs and practices of Egypt and the land of Canaan (Lev. 18:3), biblical sexuality as defined in the Garden of Eden was to be covenantal, permanent, monogamous, heterosexual, and between two humans. (To learn more, check out the inVerse study titled Principles of Biblical Sexuality.) Because Israel had just come out of Egypt and were heading straight for the Promised Land in Canaan, God wanted to state clearly what was and what wasn’t proper sexual integrity.

Leviticus 18 and 20 are both relevant and countercultural still today. Our society encourages and celebrates sexual perversion, even using it for entertainment. Sexual sins cause much of the disease, heartbreak, crime, and other evils that plague us (1 Cor. 6:18). God calls us to the path that brings the most joy, peace, fulfillment, and health.
Write out 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite Leviticus 18 and 20 in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

*Circle* repeated words/phrases/ideas

*Underline* words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw *Arrows* to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are other reasons you can think of for the sexual boundaries God established?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw12-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What other questions emerge from this study?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw12-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 Thessalonians 4:3–7
Genesis 39
Deuteronomy 22:25–29
Ephesians 4:17–19
1 Corinthians 5:9–11
2 Peter 1:4
1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 5:1–8
2 Corinthians 2:6–8

What other narratives come to mind in connection with Leviticus 18; 20?

Review your memorized verse from Leviticus 18; 20.
Jesus offers forgiveness before repentance. What does this reveal about His nature? How does this inspire hope?

What can we do to help those who struggle with sexual sins feel comfortable and loved enough to ask for help? How can we avoid making them feel ostracized and judged by the church?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Leviticus 18; 20 again and look for where Jesus is.
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapters, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw12-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What do Leviticus 18 and 20 tell you about God and His care for your sexuality?

Why did God highlight so many misuses of sexuality? Whom is He protecting?

How is this chapter countercultural to us today? What does this mean for the church in the long run?

How can a young person overcome sexual temptation?

What responsibility do we have to protect others from sexual abuse?

How did Jesus minister to people who struggled with sexual sins and lifestyles?

How can we help each other live sexually pure lives in this world?

If a friend of yours was struggling with God’s condemnation of certain lifestyle in Leviticus 18, what questions might he or she have and how would you answer them?