

Leviticus 15

Good Evening, I am glad you can be here with us.

If you are new here tonight, I want to explain to you our philosophy of ministry.

We have committed ourselves to study the whole council of God.

On Wednesday Nights, we are going straight through the Old Testament.

On Sunday Morning, we are studying New Testament Books.

My prayer is that in the years to come, when you all are studying through the scriptures, and there is just a section you do not understand.

You will be able to go to our website, and download a teaching from that portion.

So in order to work our way to such a resource, we are committed not to skip any part of the scriptures.

More importantly, we believe God gave us His Word for a reason, to speak to us and reveal His will for our lives.

Now of course when such an undertaking is happening, there really are parts of the scriptures that are just very difficult to get through.

Yet I truly believe as it says in **2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Tonight we will test this scripture, and see that everything in the Bible is there for a reason.

Even the awkward and grouse.

Now tonight is not a night for children to be in here, we will discuss adult topics and this really is rated PG-13.

Now it would be easier for me to kind of change the format tonight, and declare tonight will be

educational, and we could approach this as though we were in a college classroom, and deal with anatomy of male and female parts, and the science of diseases, and it might be easier to get through this.

However; there are some very important spiritual principles to take away from this portion of scripture.

The main thing to remember throughout chapters 13-15 is God is teaching this young nation the severity of holiness and being clean before God.

He is teaching them, that He is like no other god; He is indeed Elohim, Creator God, the All-Powerful, Yahweh who delivered them from the bondage of Egypt.

And He cannot be dealt with the same way humanity deals with the lesser deities and idols made by hands.

He is a Holy God, who is wholly set apart from anything else.

Now in the law, being given here to this young nation, they are learning from it, the depths of this holiness.

They must understand clearly the difference between clean and unclean, and holy and unholy.

God will want every part of this community's existence to be subject to this holiness.

Now the people and camp must take serious the implications of this law, and understand that the Law even permeates into the secret places of their lives.

They might be able to fool their neighbors and friends, but God is All Knowing and as we will see tonight, He is concerned with every part of the believer's life, even the hidden parts.

Now this chapter was written in an interesting way.

In Hebrew writings there is a form of writing called *Chiasm or Chiastic*.

If you are a serious Bible student, this concept will help bring clarity to many parts of scripture, and open up a whole new way to read it.

The simplest way to explain this pattern, is it is a reversal in the order of words in two otherwise parallel phrases, for example "He went to the town, to the town she went."

Sandwich explanation

The Hebrews used this form to show a basic unity of a double-sided idea.

So in chapter 15 we will see this used to show the unity and really equality of male and female sexuality and humanness.

Neither is more unclean than the other.

The connecting idea will be the marriage bed, where the male and female meet.

The chapter will start out with an unnatural long-term condition for the man, then move to a short-term natural condition for a man, then the chapter will center on man and woman coming together in sexual relations, then we will work out the other side of the chiastic thought, with a natural condition of a woman, then back to the unnatural long-term condition, of a woman.

So it starts out man long-term, then short term, sex, woman short-term, woman long-term.

Okay so I spent enough time introducing the chapter, let's get into it.

We will start with the first chronic condition in the male...

The Law Concerning Bodily Discharges

15:1 And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When any man has a discharge from his body, his discharge is unclean. 3 And this shall be his uncleanness in regard to his discharge — whether his body runs with his discharge, or his body is stopped up by his discharge, it is his uncleanness. 4 Every bed is unclean on which he who has the discharge lies, and everything on which he sits shall be unclean. 5 And whoever touches his bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 6 He who sits on anything on which he who has the discharge sat shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 7 And he who touches the body of him who has the discharge shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 8 If he who has the discharge spits on him who is clean, then he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and

be unclean until evening. 9 Any saddle on which he who has the discharge rides shall be unclean. 10 Whoever touches anything that was under him shall be unclean until evening. He who carries any of those things shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 11 And whomever the one who has the discharge touches, and has not rinsed his hands in water, he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 12 The vessel of earth that he who has the discharge touches shall be broken, and every vessel of wood shall be rinsed in water.

Now the first thing to note is that these regulations come straight from the Lord.

This is not man's ideas on how to keep a clean, germ free camp.

This had broader implications than just simply the health of the nation.

God was concerned for their holiness.

The contaminating condition here that defiled the clean camp of Israel and its people is considered by most commentators' gonorrhea.

This chapter deals specifically with the reproduction organs of both male and females, and purity in this area of their lives was essential.

This is not a text on runny noses or teary eyes.

All of the symptoms described here point to this venereal disease.

If the man begins to exhibit the signs of this disease, he is from that point considered unclean.

Now this is not as serious as leprosy, which excommunicated the individual from the community.

This instead brought severe hardship on the individual that carried this disease until his body was healthy enough to fight off the infection.

Everything he touched would be unclean, remember in the context of the law, this was not a medical problem, but an issue of being clean or unclean.

Everything upon which he sits and lays down on is then considered unclean.

If the man is talking, and spit flies out of his mouth and lands on you, you would be considered unclean until evening.

Any person who makes any contact with the unclean individual would become unclean until evening and must bathe and wash their clothes.

Any porous clay vessels touched by the unclean person must be broken, any other vessel needs to be washed.

The possibility of spreading the infection would be limited by these laws put in place.

Now it is interesting, that with this particular disease the symptoms in men are more noticeable than in woman.

The CDC even today says most woman do not have symptoms from this particular STD.

So the focus here in the scriptures is on the male's symptoms and the spread of this, from him.

Now if he was a healthy male, his body could fight this disease off, even today it is treatable, although they are starting to see stains of drug-resistant forms of this disease.

I also found it interesting the CDC recommends seven days of no sexual activity after the symptoms cease.

Because we read next, God had already figured that time span out.

13 'And when he who has a discharge is cleansed of his discharge, then he shall count for himself seven days for his cleansing, wash his clothes, and bathe his body in running water; then he shall be clean. 14 On the eighth day he shall take for himself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and come before the Lord, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and give them to the priest. 15 Then the priest shall offer them, the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering. So the priest shall make atonement for him before the Lord because of his discharge.

For the infected man, after the discharge had been cured, a cleansing period of seven days is to be observed with a washing of their clothes and a bath in fresh water.

On the eighth day, the man was to bring of the least expensive offerings two birds, one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering.

Now, this was an unnatural infection, and the reason for the sin offering and the burnt offering removes the guilt of the sin.

Where this man picked up this infection was more than likely in a sinful manner.

Even today, you know how the CDC explains how to avoid this disease?

They suggest being in a long-term monogamous relationship.

Hmmm, or do marriage God's way.

You see there are consequences set out by God for trying to cheat His system.

It is interesting that even the CDC states that those who are most at risk are sexually active gay, bi-sexual men, or those who have multiple partners.

You see the reproduction organs were given to man by God, and God sets the parameters for their use.

You see all around the nation of Israel, there is going to be perversion in the worship of the false gods.

The false religions around this Holy Nation will emphasize their worship on fertility rites and temple prostitution, and often times would encourage orgiastic activity.

The laws we are looking at tonight are not designed to restrict sexual activity within the parameters created by God.

We will see in the scriptures to come, that God is not diminishing sex in any way, but He is elevating it to a higher level than was in the world around this nation.

So with that in mind we will move on to the second part of this section for a man, his natural or normal emissions.

16 'If any man has an emission of semen, then he shall wash all his body in water, and be unclean until evening. 17 And any garment and any leather on which there is semen, it shall be washed with water, and be unclean until evening.

Now for the normal emissions, the ceremonial uncleanness exists only for the remainder of the day. The man just had bathe and wash any garment that was unclean.

And at evening that man would be clean.

This could be referring to nocturnal emissions during ones sleep, or in regards to normal sexual relationships within marriage.

As we read next...

18 Also, when a woman lies with a man, and there is an emission of semen, they shall bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

When a man and a woman have sexual intercourse, they are both unclean until evening.

Both are required to bath.

Now practically thinking this would keep this nation set apart and healthier than the surrounding more uncivilized nations.

Now, we must be careful here how we study this portion.

Moses is dealing here with ceremonial uncleanness not moral uncleanness.

Since intercourse involved bodily fluids, and these bodily fluids made a person unclean, the married couple would need to wash themselves to maintain ceremonial purity.

It seems the Lord is speaking to the fact that even in the beautiful experience of love making in a godly marriage there is opportunity for the sinful nature to arise and defile even the marriage bed.

You see the Hebrew couple would have to consider God before their own desires, and this helped sanctify their marriage.

The single person who is a believer must maintain self-control in their desires and habits to maintain purity.

Yet even in marriage, the couple must keep themselves disciplined in purity, and use self-control.

The married couple must not leave God out of their most intimate relationship.

This is getting more and more difficult with the worlds passions and ideas becoming the cultural norm.

And this world invites perversion of all kinds even into the marriage bed.

If we walk with Christ truly, He will be God of all our lives, even in the secret parts.

Too many, of what should be godly marriages today, suffer from one spouse or even the two allowing pornography and other defilements into this part of their lives.

I remember a brother in Havasu went on vacation to visit his family in Europe, a once very Christian part of the world, but now overtaken by secularism.

And they came back in a frenzy, because the relatives allowed their children to view pornography, and they even justified couples watching it together to spice up the marriage relationship.

That is the norm in parts of Europe, and our culture is quickly following the same direction.

The normalization of pornographic films, that teenagers can go watch in the theaters, 50 shades of grey should not be entertainment we allow in our lives.

Yet, even in Christian households, these perversions are ruining the sanctity of the marriage bed.

Husbands can no longer enjoy their wives without entertaining their minds with the filth of this world.

And according to Jesus it is adultery.

Matt 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your mind is addicted to pornography, it is one of the darkest and most controlling of sins, it is harder to get

away from than pulling a needle out of a heroin addicts hands.

Even women in alarming rates are resorting to the fantasies of their minds from those pictures and videos, and finding themselves addicted to the momentary thrill and instant gratification.

The marriage bed is a gift from God, it is a holy place where the miracle of procreation takes place, it is given to us to enjoy each other, and even there for us to have fun.

But it must be held up to the standard that God established it at.

Heb. 13:4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Marriage is the only place where this act is pure and undefiled.

Now, if tonight you are in bondage to this form of addiction, know this, that there is no other power that

can break the chains of your bondage and shame, than the power of Jesus Christ.

The world tries to hide the shame attached to it, by normalizing the perversions, even celebrating them.

I spent many years entrenched in the perversions of this world, and I know firsthand the shame and guilt that comes from a life disobedient to God's ways.

Jess and I before marriage were involved in some of the most debased things this world had to offer.

The guilt Jess and I had coming into our marriage was overwhelming.

Sex was tainted and because of the lifestyle we lived, it was associated with evil, and it took a long time for Jesus to teach us, that that part of our relationship could be healed.

And God allowed me to see my wife for the treasure she was.

And love making in a godly marriage is so much more satisfying and pure than anything this world can offer.

Now, you might be thinking I cannot believe this is being talked about in church, yet you will go home and turn on a TV show that talks about all kinds of different perversions, and you will enjoy your popcorn and be unfazed by it all.

But here tonight, we see God is interested even in this area of our lives being holy.

The scriptures are where we can learn about a proper sexual relationship.

God here does not put these sexual relations in a sin category, there is no sacrifice needed to atone for it, the couple just simply remained unclean until evening.

It seems here God is just simply encouraging a nice cuddle session until evening, they couldn't touch anything in their unclean state, so they were kind of encouraged to enjoy each other after the love making occurred and after they bathed.

This is not harsh by any means.

Now, this is the connecting verse in the chiasmus in this Hebrew writing, where the woman and man are

together, we will leave this union into the impurities of the woman alone.

This will be laid out in the opposite way as it was for a man, we will first start out with the natural condition for the woman and then move to the unnatural.

19 'If a woman has a discharge, and the discharge from her body is blood, she shall be set apart seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening. 20 Everything that she lies on during her impurity shall be unclean; also everything that she sits on shall be unclean. 21 Whoever touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 22 And whoever touches anything that she sat on shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. 23 If anything is on her bed or on anything on which she sits, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until evening. 24 And if any man lies with her at all, so that her impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days; and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean.

So we see here the normal menstrual cycle for a woman renders her unclean for seven days.

While everything she sits on or touches is unclean until evening.

If a husband had sexual relations with her during this time, he would be unclean for a week as well as the bed he sleeps on.

Now God was not condemning or punishing the woman for experiencing this monthly issue.

God made the woman this way, so she could bear children.

The woman's discharge is what made the woman unclean and those she touched.

Now I am not an authority on this issue, and I will tread cautiously here.

This confinement here seems to be a blessing more than anything else.

Now, I am certain, as I have observed over the years, in my observation of my wife, and being around sisters in my younger years...

That a woman who is in an unstable emotional state, again, not an authority on the issue, just observation, but if at this time when cramping and pain, and this uncomfortable flow is happening... isolation is required.

I am sure this isolation was more a gift from God than anything else.

She, for seven days could not touch the kids, cook dinner, clean the house, she had to remain on her bed and watch soap operas and eat chocolate all day.

Now in my whole life I don't think I have known a woman who would not want to take that opportunity to rest during this time.

And if the husband was too aggressive sexually during this time, the law protected her from being taken advantage of at a time when sexual intercourse would not be as pleasurable.

The man, more often than not would find taking a week separated from community for a moment of pleasure it would not be worth it.

I do not understand when people today try to argue the Bible suppresses woman, when in this day when women had little or no rights, God's Law protected them time and time again.

God's Word lifts women up constantly, and this law is a good case for that.

So the women during the menstruation time would be separated from worship at the tabernacle, and would be isolated to rest.

We also must remember that the Hebrew women were fertile and populating rather rapidly, and they would avoid this part of their cycles while pregnant and nursing their child up to 3 years old.

So that is a considerable amount of time they need not worry about this law.

Now the final section deals with a constant flow of blood for a long period of time in a female...

25 'If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity. She shall be unclean. 26 Every bed on which she lies all the days of her discharge shall be to her as the bed of her impurity; and whatever she sits on shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her impurity. 27 Whoever touches those things shall be unclean; he shall wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.

Now this section deals with abnormal issues of a prolonged discharge of blood.

Now whatever the medical cause for this abnormal condition the woman as well as her clothes and bed were considered unclean until the bleeding ceased.

After the flow stopped, a waiting period of a week would be required to assure her that it was right for her to now proceed with her cleansing....

28 'But if she is cleansed of her discharge, then she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean. 29 And on the eighth day she shall take for herself two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and bring them to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. 30 Then the priest shall offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering, and the priest shall make atonement for her before the Lord for the discharge of her uncleanness.

Now after having made the proper sacrifices she would be considered clean, and could rejoin in the life of the community and worship of God.

We cannot read this portion without recalling the woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years in Mark 5:25-34.

For 12 years, she found herself ceremonially unclean. She could not worship in the temple, and really, she was a social outcast.

Her condition perhaps was not as debilitating and severe as the leper's fate, but still a horribly lonely condition at that.

This woman heard of the power of Jesus. She had heard of His power over people's infirmities.

If this woman had any hope, Jesus was this hope, for the doctors failed her, and all other resources were spent.

Now she broke the law, with this great faith of hers, that if she could just touch His garment that she would be healed.

Now imagine the wave of emotion that overwhelmed her as she reached out and grabbed Jesus' garment and was healed.

A healing that she prayed and hoped for, for 12 years! Jesus sensing that power had gone out from Him, asked, "Who touched My clothes?"

The woman with fear and trembling admitted to Jesus, it was her.

Then Jesus in front of the community gives her back her life and her standing among society.

He declares, "Daughter your faith has made you well."

Now what did Jesus feel when that woman touched Him with her uncleanness?

Well Jesus' mission was to take our sickness and sins upon Himself.

And when that unclean woman reached out in faith, Jesus took the infirmity upon Himself, and made her whole again.

Perhaps her uncleanness coming into contact with Jesus' holiness created the moment Jesus felt, as His Holiness cleansed her condition.

You see to touch Jesus is to be restored to wholeness again... His Holiness made clean what was unclean.

What a wonderful God we serve.

Now, for Israel, God here gives the reason for these laws...

31 'Thus you shall separate the children of Israel from their uncleanness, lest they die in their uncleanness when they defile My tabernacle that is among them. 32 This is the law for one who has a discharge, and for him who emits semen and is unclean thereby, 33 and for her who is indisposed because of her customary impurity, and for one who has a discharge, either man or woman, and for him who lies with her who is unclean.'"

These regulations here were not suggestions from Moses and Aaron or the religious leaders of the day for an individual to live a virtuous life.

These were Holy commandments from God.

It was a serious thing to obey these ordinances, if the Hebrew man or woman tried to secretly hide these things from man, they might succeed.

Yet if they thought they could hide them from God, they would end up like Nadab and Abihu, dead in their unclean worship.

They would defile the tabernacle and death would overwhelm them.

Now today the church is not under these specific laws, yet the principle of sin and God's Holiness remains the same.

And for us believers today there should be no area of our life hidden or excluded from God.

Every corner and crevice of our hearts and minds should be His, as well as every relationship that we are in.

Now all sin is serious and separates us from God, but the consequences of sin can be more severe in some cases.

Now scripture says in...

1 Cor. 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Our bodies are His dwelling place.

What we invite into our hearts and minds can defile this temple greatly.

Now all sin defiles but sexual sin seems to stand alone in its severity in this temple as Paul later says in

1 Cor. 6:18-20 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

You see God created sex, and He gave the parameters of its use.

It is to be enjoyed within marriage between one man and one woman, now when you are involved in sexual immorality, scripture says it is a sin directly against God's dwelling place this body where the Holy Spirit dwells.

This body was bought with a price, the price was Jesus' blood, and now we are to bring honor to God with our body and spirit, they belong to God.

Now I have laid out statistics for you in the past, about Christians following their fleshly appetite in the context to sexual sin.

It is rampant in the church, bondage to pornography and sexual relationships outside the marriage union are so high it is no doubt many here tonight are in bondage.

Now, I know you have worked really hard to conceal this part of your life from everyone around you especially here in the church.

So I will not ask you to stand to your feet, and repent, it won't happen that way.

But know this, there are some serious warnings in the scriptures against a willful sinful behavior.

Even in the New Testament, we are warned as severely as the Law warned the Israelites.

1 John 5:16-17 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. 17 All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.

You see all sin is sin and considered unrighteousness, yet there is prolonged sin, sin that is continually happening in a person's life that is usually concealed from others, and it leads to death.

It is possible for a believer to commit sin in such a way that God takes him home.

There is a sin that leads to death, when God's children continue in their disobedience, sometimes the most severe action is taken by God.

Sexual sin most surely has some of the most life threatening consequences.

Just look at the CDC's website, and look at what is spreading through the reproductive organs, that God has set apart to Himself, for His purposes in marriages.

Even the CDC recognizes God's ways are right, and they are the only preventive measures.

Of course, they do not give credit to Him.

God puts the guidelines here for our benefit; to disobey destroys our bodies and our relationships.

Our friends in Europe who think pornography helps relationships are so misguided.

In my years in ministry, so many times marriages are strained by the use of pornography.

The husband can no longer be stimulated by his precious wife's touch; he has to resort to fantasies and filth to gratify himself.

So many young people today will go into their marriages with this bondage to perversity and they will never know how to make love to their spouses.

God is concerned with our whole lives; even the thought life on our pillows at night.

Now, if you are here tonight in bondage to this sinful behavior, I will tell you it is impossible to ever be free from it.

The effects will go with you for the rest of your life in this fallen world.

There is no hope for your mind, no method of rehabilitation, except One!

Like I told you earlier Jess and I came into our relationship with so much baggage, and for a time we did not know how to enjoy this part of our marriage without the guilt that the world attached to it.

There was so much shame and turmoil, until one day in our grief and humiliation we did something that started us on the road to healing.

And I will tell you here tonight, if you are in bondage to any kind of sexual sin, there is only one way to be free from it.

Confession, to be honest with yourself and be real with Jesus.

1 John 1:8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The world will tell you, that you were born that way, just embrace it, the world will tell you it is no big deal, and the world has preached its message so effectively through our TV shows and movies, through social media propaganda the church has begun to buy into it.

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the Truth is not in us!

For my wife and me, it took us to admit our sin, we confessed to one another and to Jesus, and we repented of those detestable sins.

You know what happened over time in our young marriage, we were able to be healed in our minds and hearts, and we were able to make love with each other.

We reached out and touched the hem of Jesus' garment, and He took our infirmities upon Himself, and He cleansed us.

And when those sins would come back in our lives we would repeat the confession process.

And over time the sinful passions would be further and further apart, but we held each other accountable to one another and to God.

Now, I would be lying if I said those impulses are not there with us anymore, but we have guards up now, accountability, and we know the power of Jesus over this area of our lives.

Now if you are thinking tonight, that you are too entrenched in your sexual sin, that you can never be free from it, I will tell you apart from Christ you are right.

However, if you are simply bold enough, to reach out to Jesus, touch the hem of His garment, you too can be healed.

He is the only way; it comes through confession, and repentance.

Your marriage can be healed; your lives can be restored, but only through the blood of Christ.

Then for the long run, it is the Word of God that heals your mind, fill your head with God's Word, His teaching, and your heart will be cleansed over time.

Ps 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way?

By taking heed according to Your word.

Talk about the young adolescent stuck in the bondage of porn. Pictures vs. the Word.

So we made it through this chapter, next week we enter into a new section of Leviticus, and we start with the Day of Atonement.

We will not be back in this chapter for many, many years, so you can be happy about that.

So like always, the Elders will be up front if you have any prayer needs, we are here for you and your families whatever you need.

Jesus is the great healer and restorer come to Him tonight for your freedom.

God bless you and see you on Sunday...