

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 and Leviticus 18

Singing: 309:1-4 – 65:1, 3 – 322:1-4 – 143:1, 3 – 435:1, 7, 9

How can *breaking one commandment* make me guilty of all? (James 2:10)

A. Makes sense when we see the Law as 'one Law of love'

1. Not only *makes each sin* us guilty

2. Also each sin is worthy of *death* (separation)

B. Reminder: *purpose Law is to reflect God in His loving (holy) nature*

1. Consider the similarity between the 1st and the 7th commandment

a. both deal with relationships and the breach of it

b. both have the same intent: *protection of a something precious*

Purity of Sexual Passion

I. What is function? II. What boundaries of the expression of sex passions? III. What is reason of God's boundaries?

I. What is the function of sexual passion?

A. God created us people *with sexual needs and desires*

1. these 'natural needs' are therefore not *sinful in themselves*

2. therefore God speaks *positive* about sexual life (in marriage)

a. Proverbs 5:14-15; Song of Solomon 4-5; Hebrews 13:4

b. God's design in the creation of our bodies is intended to *deepen joy of the relationship in sexual intimacy*

3. In 1 Cor. 7 God *commands* sexual relationship in marriage

B. How destructive is *our fall from purity and godliness* as related to the 7th!

1. The fall didn't *diminish the sexual needs*

2. Our Fall *made us selfish in focus and slaves to carnal (sexual) lust*

a. to curb this sin of lust from destroying us, God legislated the 7th

II. What are the boundaries God established for sexual expression?

A. The boundary is the *marriage covenant* (Genesis 2:24)

1. the 'one flesh' relationship is *far more than sexual but is included!*

B. Other boundaries drawn in Scripture as our *Creator's will*

1. Any sexual activity between unmarried people is forbidden

a. Gen. 2:24; 1 Thess. 4:3-7

2. Any sexual activity between unmarried-married person is forbidden:
 - a. referred to as adultery
 - b. since this infidelity is so serious Jesus *allows* divorce (Matt. 19:9)
3. Any sexual activity between **family members** is forbidden (Lev. 18)
 - a. called sin of **incest** (Lev. 18:6)
 - b. called **child abuse** if adults have sexual relations with children
4. Any sexual activity between *people of same sex* as well as *with animals* (Lev. 18:22-23)
 - a. NT maintains this commandment (Romans 1)
 - b. Be compassionate: *same-sex attraction does exist though it cannot be expressed*
5. Any sexual imaginations with others than your spouse: Matt. 5:27-29
 - a. this commandment speaks to *both men and women*
 - no one is excused to sin
 - none are allowed to be *agent of temptations*
 - as a woman towards a man (eye-gate)
 - as a man towards a woman (feel-gate 1 Cor. 7:1)
6. Jesus teaching in Matt. 5 also applies to *pornography*
 - a. all interaction with pornography is *destructive*
 - creates patterns – sex addictions – leads to violence
 - exploits the vulnerable – boys/girls – men/women

III. What is God's intention in these clear instructions of His will?

- A. Our loving and caring Creator wants to *protect what is beautiful!*
 1. The picture of the *flower bud and flower*
 - a. He seeks to protect the eventual flower with His boundaries
 - b. He seeks to protect the most precious earthly relationships
- B. Therefore His laws are not *rigid rules to restraint* but *provisions to protect pure pleasure*