

I. Sex outside of marriage is not okay with God. (verses 16-17)

- A. The kind of commitment sexual love requires is marriage.
- B. "Bride-price." Israelites required a bride-price to be paid by the groom.
- C. A father who really didn't like his daughter's seducer could kibosh the marriage.
- D. As a protection for women, sex is to take place within marriage.
- E. God designed men to be the protectors of women (Genesis 2:15)

II. Idolatry is to be met with death (verses 18-20)

- A. Weird to us, but they make sense together
- B. "You shall not permit a sorceress to live."
- C. "Whoever lies with an animal shall be put to death."
- D. "Whoever sacrifices to [any other god] shall be devoted to destruction."
- E. Sorcery and paganism: invitations to demons (Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17)

III. Laws against oppression (verses 21-24)

- A. Now he reminds them that they were sojourners in Egypt.
- B. God hates the mistreatment of the helpless.

IV. Lending to the poor (verses 25-27)

- A. All lending to the poor with interest is forbidden (see Leviticus 25:35-38; Deuteronomy 23:19-20; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Psalm 15:5; Proverbs 28:8; Ezekiel 18:8, 13, 17; 22:12)
- B. "Anybody can get a loan" is not necessarily a good thing ...
- C. Do not deprive the poor of their necessities (see Deuteronomy 15:7-8)
- D. Interest and slavery (Luke 16:13; 1 Corinthians 7:28-34)
- E. Be sure that God will hear the cry of the disadvantaged poor

V. A righteous scepter

- A. We have seen love in laws
- B. God's call to his people is to love him and love one another
- C. Jesus Christ fulfills the law
  - i. he is our righteous husband
  - ii. he is God's Spirit-filled warrior
  - iii. he suffered injustice with us, in order to save us (Isaiah 53:7-8)
- D. A love song about Jesus Christ and his bride: Psalm 45