



Sexual Purity Course Lesson 10

Scripture: Read Exodus 20:14; and Leviticus 18.

Study:

The laws regarding sex are a part of the covenant established with Israel. Some background on the topic of covenant is very helpful.

A covenant is a binding contract between two parties, both of whom have obligations specified within the covenant. In OT times, many covenants were given generously by an all powerful suzerain (overlord) to a weaker dependant vassal (servant). They guaranteed the vassal benefits and protection. But, in turn, the vassal was obligated to be loyal solely to the suzerain, with the warning that any disloyalty would bring punishments as specified in the covenant. How was the vassal to show loyalty? By keeping the stipulations (rules of behavior) specified within the covenant. As long as the vassal kept the stipulations, the suzerain knew that the vassal was loyal. When the stipulations were violated, however, the suzerain was required by the covenant to take action to punish the vassal. God constructed the OT law on the analogy of these ancient covenants and thereby constituted a binding contract between Yahweh, the Lord, and his vassal, Israel. In return for benefits and protection, Israel was expected to keep the more than six hundred stipulations contained in the Law (Fee and Stuart, *How to Read the Bible*, pg. 150-151).

Application:

1. What are some specific sexual deviations according to God's Law?
2. Take the background into account. When you avoid sexual sins what does that say about your covenant relationship with God? When you commit them, what does that say about your covenant relationship with God?
3. Meditate on the following from the Heidelberg Catechism:

Question 108: What is God's will for us in the seventh commandment?

Answer: God condemns all unchastity. We should therefore thoroughly detest it and, married or single, live decent and chaste lives.

Question 109: Does God, in this commandment, forbid only such scandalous sins as adultery?

Answer: We are temples of the Holy Spirit, body and soul, and God wants both to be kept clean and holy. That is why he forbids everything which incites unchastity, whether it be actions, looks, talk, thoughts, or desires.