

REALLY Biblical Behavior

On one of her radio shows, Dr Laura Schlesinger said that homosexuality is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22, and cannot be condoned under any circumstance. The following response is an open letter to Dr. Laura which has been widely posted on the Internet. The footnotes with Biblical quotations have been added by Prof M. E. Kabay of Norwich University.

Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding G-d's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22¹ clearly states it to be an abomination [as does Lev20:13]². End of debate.

I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of G-d's Law and how to follow them.

1. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord - Lev1:9.³ The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?
2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7.⁴ In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanness - Lev.15: 19-24.⁵ The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.
4. Lev. 25:44⁶ states that I may indeed possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighboring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?
5. I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2.⁷ The passage clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

¹ Do not lie with a male as you would with a woman, since this is a disgusting perversion.

² If a man has intercourse with another man in the same manner as with a woman, both of them have committed a disgusting perversion. They shall be put to death by stoning.

³ The priest shall thus burn the entire animal on the altar as a completely burnt fire offering to G-d, an appeasing fragrance.

⁴ If a man sells his daughter as a maidservant, she shall not be freed as male servants are released.

⁵ When a woman has a discharge, it can consist of any blood that emerges from her body. For seven days she is then ritually unclean because of her menstruation, and anyone touching her shall be unclean until evening. [20] As long as she is in her menstrual state, anything upon which he lies shall be unclean, and anyone sitting on it is likewise unclean. [21] Whoever touches her bed must immerse his clothing and his body in a Mikvah, and then remain unclean until evening. [22] similarly, anyone who sits on any article upon which he has sat must immerse his clothing and his body in a Mikvah, and then remain unclean until evening. [23] Thus, if he is on the bed or any other article upon which she sat, whether he touches it or not, he is unclean until evening. [24] if a man has intercourse with such a woman, her menstrual impurity is transferred to him, and he shall be unclean for seven days. Any bed upon which he lies shall be unclean.

⁶ You can also have other male or female slaves. These are the male and female slaves that you buy from the nations around you.

6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination - Lev. 11:10⁸, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?

7. Lev. 21:20⁹ states that I may not approach the altar of G-d if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev.19:27.¹⁰ How should they die?

9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8¹¹ that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev. 19:19¹² by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? - Lev.24:14-16.¹³ Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)¹⁴

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I am confident you can help.

Thank you again for reminding us that G-d's word is eternal and unchanging.

Your adoring fan,

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⁷ You may do work during the six weekdays, but Saturday must be kept wholly as a Sabbath of Sabbaths to G-d. Whoever does any work on that day shall be put to death.

⁸ On the other hand, all creatures in seas and rivers that do not have fins and scales, whether they are small aquatic animals or other aquatic creatures, must be avoided by you.

⁹ [18] Thus any blemished priest may not offer sacrifice. This includes anyone who is blind or lame, or who has a deformed nose or a misshapen limb. [19] also included is anyone who has a crippled leg, a crippled hand, [20] who is a hunchback or a dwarf, who has a blemish in the eye, who has severe eczema or ringworm, or who has a hernia.

¹⁰ Do not cut off the hair on the sides of your head. Do not shave off the edges of your beard.

¹¹ The pig shall be unclean to you although it has a true hoof which is cloven, since it does not chew its cud. [8] Do not eat the flesh of any of these animals. At this time do not touch their carcasses, since they are unclean to you.

¹² Keep My decrees. Do not crossbreed your livestock with other species. Do not plant your field with different species of seeds. Do not wear a garment that contains a forbidden mixture of fabrics.

¹³ Take the blast steamer out of the camp, and let all who heard him place their hands on his head. The entire community shall then stone him to death. [15] Speak to the Israelites as follows: anyone who curses G-d shall bear his sin. [16] but if one actually blast steams the name YHVH, he shall be put to death. The entire community shall stone him. Whether he is a proselytes or a native born Israelite, he shall be put to death

¹⁴ If a man marries a woman and her mother, it is a perversion, and both he and the second one taken shall be burned with fire.