

holiness & HOMEWORK

WHERE RELIGION MEETS REALITY



Have we ever tried to separate our
religion from our **romantic relationships**,
our **spirituality** from our **sexuality**?



Some immoral romantic relationships, that made people “unclean”:

- Incest (Lev. 18:6-17)
- Adultery (Lev. 18:20)
- Same Sex (Lev. 18:22; 20:13)
- Bestiality (Lev. 18:23)



Leviticus 18:24–25

ESV

²⁴ “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean,
²⁵ and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.

Leviticus 18:26–28

ESV

²⁶ But you shall keep my statutes and my rules and do none of these **abominations**, either the native or the stranger who sojourns among you ²⁷ (for the people of the land, who were before you, did all of these **abominations**, so that the land became **unclean**), ²⁸ lest the land vomit you out when you make it unclean, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.

Leviticus 18:29–30

ESV

²⁹ For everyone who does any of these **abominations**, the persons who do them shall be cut off from among their people. ³⁰ So keep my charge never to practice any of these **abominable** customs that were practiced before you, and **never to make yourselves unclean by them**: I am the LORD your God.”

**“Didn’t Jesus do away with
all that **Old Testament** stuff?”**



Matthew 15:17–18

ESV

¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the **stomach** and is expelled?

¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the **heart**, and **this defiles a person.**

You're not defiled by what's in your
STOMACH, but by what's in your **HEART**.



Matthew 15:19–20

ESV

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, **sexual immorality**, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ **These are what defile a person.** But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”

1 Corinthians 6:9–10

ESV

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the **sexually immoral**, nor idolaters, nor **adulterers**, nor men who **practice homosexuality**,
¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

ESV

¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:18–20

ESV

¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that **your body is a temple** of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are **not your own**, ²⁰ for you were **bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.**

1 Corinthians 7:4–5

NIV

⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ⁵ **Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer.** Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

1 Corinthians 7:13–14

ESV

¹³ If any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he consents to live with her, she should not divorce him. ¹⁴ For the unbelieving husband is **made holy** because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is **made holy** because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, **they are holy**.

Paul's response is a striking example of how the Christian gospel stands the old negative codes of purity on their heads. As with Jesus' healings, in which he touched lepers and other unclean people and, instead of being infected with their diseases, infected them instead with God's new life, so Paul believed that holiness could be more powerful than uncleanness.

Source: N.T. Wright, Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians



1 Corinthians 7:32–34

ESV

³² I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. ³³ But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to please his wife, ³⁴ and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, **how to be holy in body and spirit**. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband.

1 Corinthians 7:35

ESV

³⁵ I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your **undivided devotion to the Lord.**

We can do holy work in **marriage**
or in **singleness**, but not in **immorality**.

