

## Half & Half or Simply Water?

Sometimes we look at the Bible, say it's so **restrictive**, other times we are happy that **God chose us**, as if we had something to do with it. Glass is either ½ Empty or ½ Full, right?

We can look at the text in Leviticus like this...

½ E says God is keeping **us from Him** or ½ F God is making a small way to Him.

½ E says "oh the **restrictions**", ½ F says @ least there is **some way to God**.

½ E says so many rules, ½ F says "direction alas!"

So is the glass ½ E or ½ F? Provide an alternative... Maybe what you are seeing is **simply water**? Simply a wonderful glass of water, **no measure at all**?

We look at ourselves and God through the lens of good and bad, empty or full, either good enough or not good enough. Religious or defiled. ½ & ½ ... but in the midst of it all, it seems we miss the main point, that is that... **there is Water**, Living Water. Where **just a sip** will supply us with life everlasting as in John 4.14 but whoever drinks of the **water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"

Remember that Jesus is the Life Giver, Living Water, regardless our perspective, He is neither ½ E or F. **He is life**.... Abundant! And it's Him we celebrate, it's Jesus we look to.

Today we look into some **ancient writings** that **pointed to** the Everlasting lover of our souls.. Jesus! Remembering that these are His words, His direction, His plan, His hand leading us...through Leviticus. So maybe, today you look at the text through a different lens, neither ½ E or ½ F, but rather, all Living Water, All Jesus Lord and Savior!

**Backdrop** Remember book of Leviticus is all about? One word? "It is the **way to God & the walk with God.**" Ch 1-17 have been the **way TO GOD**. SO in **Ch 18 we begin the walk with God.**

### **Overview**

**Ch18 "Sexual Pollution"** 1st God says I rescued you from slavery in Egypt, now go **Live a set apart life!** Holy meaning...

The #1 pull of this land will be **sexual sin**. **Why?** The enemy loves to use the **greatest gifts** and closest **gospel pictures** of **intimacy with God** to tempt us. Sin is progressive & drops to depths unfathomable, seen in ch18.

**Ch19 "Culture Club"**, The Lord will give us a picture of true social justice, telling us how a holy culture, nation is to live.

**Ch20**, the **"Penalty Box"**, the penalty for breaking God's commands is separation = death!

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The next 3 chapters are built **upon these 5 verses**. Everything else **branches out** from these verses. Read the Red. I AM THE LORD. Dozens Xs. It's Me speaking, **you can trust in Me!**

1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘**I am the Lord your God**. 3 According to **the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do**; and according to the **doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do**; nor shall you walk in their ordinances. 4 You shall **observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God**. 5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which **if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord**.

**Don'ts**... Listen, **Egypt**, their habits, worship of false gods, evil practices, don't do them anymore. I've saved you from that, why go back to it? Picture of Salvation and the **world**.

& **Canaan, Promised Land, where you will be in 40 yrs**, they are just as vile and do not walk in My ways, I'll judge that sin, Don't be a follower of the herd, walking in the whims of their culture. Be a leader no matter how tempting, remember it leads to death! It's a scam!

**DO's**... I want you to listen to Me, watch and see what I command, and walk that way **Why?** If he does he shall live *by* them ...I AM THE LORD God is the giver of life, not death and losing out, no FOMO with Jesus! Life in Christ isn't ½ full, He is simply Living Water

There should be a stark difference between the life of a believer & a not yet. believer.. “The witness of Jesus in our culture is made small because **our witness is not different than the world's**”

When it comes to how we look at sexuality we need **different view than our culture** (cultural views always change). In today's culture, true **intimacy has been lost**, and loveless sex is uninhibited. For us... If the Lord is our God, then we find His **morality is good**. **Can't divorce our actions from what we truly believe.**

**Marriage was the very first covenant** God made with people. Gen 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall **become one flesh**. 25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. We are made in God's image. Marriage and intimacy within a godly marriage are pictures of the closeness to God a believer can have with Jesus...

Marriage is the most sacred and fundamental core of a society. **So where do you think the enemy will aim his attack?** At the heart of a marriage, and in the impurities of the flesh... turning **love making** into a **life sucking** & selfish attempt at **true worship**. Sex is a beautiful gift from God, like any gift we can use it for our selfish glory or God's glory!

6 'None of you shall approach anyone who is **near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness**: I am the Lord. 7 The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. 8 The nakedness of **your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness**. 9 The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, **whether born at home or elsewhere**, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

16 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness. 17 You shall not uncover the **nakedness of a woman and her daughter**, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. 18 Nor shall you take a **woman as a rival to her sister**, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive.

The movie Gladiators has a scene where the emperor hits on his sister, ew! Based on near biblical times. Sexual relations with family members was very common everywhere in this day. God said, NO, I don't think so!

Modern medicine has discovered that the risk of chromosomal abnormalities and retardation rise when two family members make babies. One study said Psychology Today "Fewer than half of the children who were the product of incestuous unions were completely healthy. Forty-two percent of them were born with severe birth defects or suffered early death and another 11 percent mildly impaired mentally." God said not only is this wrong medically, family is family. By blood or not.

Marriage between man and woman, husband and wife is the ordained family way. Sex outside of the marriage bed **of any kind** is wrong and destructive!

God is telling the Israelites, to be different from any society you must be sexually pure.

Sin is sinister and **sin is progressive**... It stems from a small unholy thought that gives way to contemplation then gives way to action...that thought just became a family killer! Society breaker. Be careful what thoughts we *entertain*! Take captive your thoughts 1 Cor 10.5 bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

19 'Also you **shall not** approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. Goes back to purity laws, blood, life was in the blood... also giving women a break, knowing guys are relentless, selfish, and kind of oblivious to the needs of a woman...

20 Moreover you **shall not** lie carnally with your **neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her**. 7th commandment, do not **commit adultery** with your neighbor (who is your neighbor?). The effect is defilement. **Tamé**, polluted. Adultery is a poison that infects the marriage bed, your kids, & community. Be it sexual, conversational, or pornographical... **adultery isn't limited to physical!**

21 And you **shall not** let any of your **descendants pass through the fire to Molech**, nor shall you **profane the name of your God: I am the Lord..**

Molech, Canaanite god of pleasure and prosperity. 5ft tall metal statue with either a pot belly opened up or arms outstretched in brass, glowing hot, babies placed on the burning hands, sacrificed, with drums beating to drown out the cry of the baby... we don't have this statue in our day, but we are living in a culture that does sacrifice unborns for the sake of comfort, convenience, and finances....

For those who have been through this ordeal ...GRACE & love, **YOU are loved** & accepted.

22 You shall **not lie with a male as with a woman**. It is an abomination. 23 Nor shall you **mate with any animal**, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

God is the one telling us **what is sin and what is holy behavior**. Here He is telling us sexual acts outside of marriage whether with animals, family members, those outside of marriage with opposite sex, or those of the **same sex** is wrong. It's revisited in Romans 1 in case you think this text was null and void after the new covenant.

**Jesus is the only one** who can define sin. **Man can make laws** and moral codes, but **God alone can decide** what is spiritual moral and not.

It is also sin to single out a people group for their particular type of sin and label them unforgivable... We should be reaching out to the people groups in our community. ALL manner of sinners are welcome at CCCC!

God doesn't keep us from anything good, He isn't 1/2 & 1/2, see the goodness of Jesus, that He is the living water our souls are looking for at the bottom of a barrel or even bed sheet... Hope is found in Jesus Christ for anyone who is willing to take a sip from His well!

Grace and Love.

24 **'Do not defile yourselves** with any of these things; for by **all these the nations are defiled**, which I am casting out before you. 25 For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants. 26 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, and shall not commit **any of these abominations**, either **any of your own nation or any stranger who dwells among you** 27 (for all these abominations the men of the land have done, who were before you, and thus the land is defiled), 28 lest the land vomit you out also when you defile it, as it vomited out the nations that were before you. 29 For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be **cut off from among their people**.

God is commanding and also pleading with His people, don't pollute yourselves, especially after I pulled you out of Egypt, the dumpster. I know where this will head... cast out & cast off.

Is God calling you to leave something behind?

30 'Therefore you shall keep My ordinance, so that you do not commit any of these abominable customs which were committed before you, and that you do not defile yourselves by them: **I am the**

**Lord your God.**’ ” He is God, and we can trust Him. Staying sexually holy, is key to living a life that is holy, set apart for God’s service. A person who is sexually pure is a person who can be used by God.

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### Ch19, “Culture Club”

Bit more positive instruction on how to live and be holy like the Lord who loves them. God covers the topics of social justice on His terms, which is the right way!

19:1 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

3 ‘Every one of you shall **revere his mother and his father**, and keep **My Sabbaths**: **I am the Lord your God**. 5th & 4th commandment, echoes here, to honor God by resting in Him, **trust** rings through here. Trusting God & parents.

**Honoring of parents** is an essential building block for the stability and health of all society.

Submitting to parental authority is a step to submitting to Divine authority.

Trusting God take seeing the glass as **simply Jesus, simply Water, not ½&½**

4 ‘Do not turn to idols, nor make for yourselves molded gods: **I am the Lord your God**. 2nd commandment, trust again comes into play as God tells the Israelites how to live holy satisfied lives, trusting in Him over everything else. If we do, we don’t run to other places or make other things more important. We don’t fill the half empty cup with something other than simply Jesus!

5 ‘And if you offer a sacrifice of a **peace offering to the Lord**, you shall offer it of your own **free will**.

6 It shall be **eaten the same day you offer it**, and on the next day. And if any remains until the third day, it shall be burned in the fire.

The peace offering was to be offered and shared between the people and God Himself. God was giving an invitation to come and dine with Him, through Jesus to come, the bread of life for all. Take in as much as you want, as often as you want, but it has to be a daily meal. Or it goes bad....

Instruction for the rich...to care for the poor in their community

9 ‘When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall **not wholly reap the corners** of your field, nor shall you **gather the gleanings** of your harvest. 10 And you shall not glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; **you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger**: **I am the Lord your God**. Built in welfare system. We are to care for those with less. This is exactly what Ruth was doing when Boaz noticed her (Ruth 2:2-3)

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No way God, give to the poor, my cup will only be ½ E ...Simply Jesus. It’s all His anyway!

Instruction for the poor (or greedy kleptos), & the importance of God’s name!

11 ‘You **shall not steal**, nor deal falsely, nor **lie to one another**. 12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: **I am the Lord**.

Honest business...kind to the physically impaired

13 'You **shall not cheat your neighbor**, nor rob him. The wages of him who is hired shall not remain with you all night until morning. 14 You shall **not curse the deaf**, nor put a stumbling block before the **blind**, but shall fear your God: **I am the Lord**.

15 'You shall do no **injustice in judgment**. You shall **not be partial to the poor**, nor honor the person of the **mighty**. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor. Jesus reminded us what this principle is all about: We should only judge others with the standard we are willing to be judged by because God will apply that same standard to us (Matthew 7:1-2)

16 You shall not go **about as a talebearer** among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbor: **I am the Lord**. A talebearer, a gossip. 3 people get hurt in gossip. The one you're talking about, (assassination of character), talking to, (their view of someone may be altered), and finally you, (treat people differently when you are talking about them behind their back)

17 'You shall **not hate your brother** in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**: **I am the Lord**.

We hate our brother sister in our hearts when we don't communicate with them.

Great command of Jesus to love your neighbor, way back here.

19 'You shall keep My statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.

Unequally yoked. Proverbs 5

20 'Whoever **lies carnally with a woman** who is betrothed to a man as a concubine, and who has not at all been redeemed nor given her freedom, for this there shall be scourging; but they shall not be put to death, because she was not free. 21 And he shall bring his trespass offering to the Lord, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, a ram as a trespass offering. 22 The **priest shall make atonement** for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the Lord for his sin which he has committed. And the sin which he has committed **shall be forgiven him**.

Refers to adultery where the woman is spoken for, in today's society there is a "what he doesn't know won't hurt him" mentality. Not so, infidelity is never hidden. It's a painful poison that seems to weep from the broken vessel holding onto it.

26 'You shall not eat anything with the blood, **nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying**. 27 You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard. 28 You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh **for the dead**, nor tattoo any marks on you: **I am the Lord**. Things of the occult, mysticism, honoring the dead spirits in a worshipful way... Ask who is your trust in? If our hope is truly in Christ, we are playing the harlot by going to these things. ½&½ hope



29 'Do not **prostitute your daughter**, to cause her to be a harlot, lest the land fall into harlotry, and the land become full of wickedness. Sadly this happens every day.

32 'You **shall rise before the gray headed** and **honor the presence of an old man**, and fear your God: **I am the Lord.**!

Further Gospel Culture...We hear so much on immigration, & have some crazy notion we should align with one or the other political party.... Soak this verse in

33 'And if a **stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him.** 34 The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you **as one born among you**, and **you shall love him as yourself**; for **you were strangers** in the land of Egypt: **I am the Lord your God.** The word also says to honor the local laws in Romans.

37 'Therefore you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them: **I am the Lord.**' "

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### The "Penalty Box"

God goes over most of the sins of ch19&20, He gives the penalty for breaking these commands. Most of which are **physical death** by stoning, or by **death of an animal** in sacrifice, or by **death or relationship** having people cast out of the society. Sin kills, people, communities, & nations!

There is a call to family accountability here also in verse 4, as a church family we are to look out for one another while not judging each other. We are called to talk to a brother sister directly if we see they are in sin, or stumbling, with the **intent to help pick them up**, not to just point out their problems. You really have to have an ongoing close relationship before your correction can be heard.

So with sin, there is always death, separation, a **ripping apart of lives & relationships**. God gave the Israelites a **charge to live morally good** lives, by *His* standards, not by the worlds.

Look at vs 3, says when we sin we defile, **pollute God's sanctuary**, Then it was the actual Tabernacle, tent. Today the HS dwells in our hearts, our sin pollutes God's place of habitation. Our heart His home? And I always want my heart to be a place that Jesus is welcome to come and stay.

"**Profane My Name**" the effect of sin then and now on a believer of Christ, was a **polluted home**, and God's name was **chahal**, **polluted, to make common of no value**. When we make allowances to sin, wink at it, saying its ok, God forgives me, it just **ruins our witness** to those around us, making God's name, reputation, as common as the other fake gods.

Fascinating...Chalel also means **to pierce through or wound**. The implication is that our sin profanes God's name in such a way that He is pierced through, Jesus on the cross, our sin...

**20** 1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Again, you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘Whoever of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who gives any of his descendants to Molech, **he shall surely be put to death**. The people of the land shall stone him with stones. 3 I will **set My face against that man**, and will cut him off from his people, because he has given some of his descendants to Molech, **to defile My sanctuary and profane My holy name**. 5 then I will set My face against that man and against his family; and **I will cut him off from his people**, and all who prostitute themselves with him to commit harlotry with Molech.

22 ‘You shall **therefore keep all My statutes** and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out. 23 And **you shall not walk** in the statutes of **the nation which I am** casting out before you; for **they commit all these things**, and therefore I abhor them. 24 But I have said to you, “You shall inherit their land, and I will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.” **I am the Lord your God, who has separated you from the peoples**. 26 And you shall be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and **have separated you** from the peoples, that **you should be Mine**.

God called the Israelites then, and the believer in Christ today to live lives that shine a light in the darkness, that light up the land with Christ-likeness. **How do you shine in darkness?** By living a set apart life. By living according to God’s ways, not the world’s ways, we shine.

I’ve called you out of the world system, but not out of the world, not yet! The whole point of Lev 18-20 for us today is **to live a set apart life for the glory of God**. So ppl will recognize Christ in us by how we live, that when we speak His Name there is weight, value, substance!

**1 Peter 2.9** But you are a **chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; We proclaim 1st by living honorable lives, even though you are forgiven for your sin, does that mean we should continue in them, or make an excuse for sin? Paul?

Check out vs 11&12 11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts** which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, **that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God** in the day of visitation.

The only way people will see Jesus in our lives is if we live like He is the ruler of our lives... Are we living the ½ & ½ life that dabbles, or are we living a consecrated, dedicated life that says Lord it’s all about you, you are the Living Water to my soul. It’s you I want to take in, it’s also in You I want remain.



John 15:9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love**. (How do you stay in remain in Christ?) 10 If you keep My commandments, **you will abide in My love**, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

**1 John 2:5** But whoever **keeps His word**, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. Keeping God’s word keep us close to Him. Being close to Him makes us shine like Him. We cant look at following God’s ways as ½ full, or have FOMO, we have to have a perspective shift, and we absolutely will if we start to understand how incredible the Living Water, Jesus Christ is.

When we abide in the love of Jesus, life is sweet, complete, it doesn’t compete with the world...yet God leaves us here in the world with our cups running ,overflowing with Simply Jesus

John 17:15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are **not of the world**, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 **As You sent Me** into the world, **I also have sent them** into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Why has He sent us into the world the way He sent Jesus?.... For God so loved the ? That He sent His only Son that **whoever believes** in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Let me ask you again, is your glass ½ Empty, ½ Full, or Simply Jesus?  
Are people seeing you as half empty, half full when it comes to the Lord of your life, finding tons of blatant hypocrisies, inconsistencies, and heresies,? Or are they simply seeing Jesus flowing from you like a river of life, that they in turn want to drink from?

Maybe you feel like a half full Christian, half full of sin, Simply Jesus. Let Him fill your heart.