

Blood and Sex

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 17-18.

B. Much of the spread of legalism today is because Christians misunderstand the power they are given.

1. You have and now you do right.

2. Power comes before demand.

C. Areas that were regulated: blood and sex. They were regulated because we do not understand either.

II. Regulated behavior.

A. Blood.

1. All blood must be offered to the Lord.

a. The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ. (Galatians)

b. This was a serious matter because if this was violated a man was to be cut off from the people.

1) Whenever we are depending upon ourselves, we are walking in the flesh and this is unacceptable to God.

2) This mind cannot please God and is therefore unclean. (Romans)

3) Being cut off from the people is equivalent to being excommunicated. (Matthew 18)

4) The reason that this is a serious offense is because the basis for all proper behavior is that all life belongs to God and He alone can handle it.

5) Cultic sacrifices spread the illusion that man can handle life himself.

2. No one was permitted to eat blood.

a. Life is in the blood.

b. To eat the life of a fallen creation is no proper food. (John 6)

c. The new source of life is the life of Jesus.

B. Sex.

1. Next to the preservation of life itself, this is the most powerful drive in human life.
2. Despite the risks of it, God does not take it away.
3. God is careful to set the reasons for restrictions—they are to make life full, not boring.
4. Sex is to be a total union and therefore protected in the confines of marriage.
5. Sex is not to be with the nearest of kin.
 - a. This intensifies weakness if violated.
 - b. Psychologically, to have sex with nearest of kin is to have sex with oneself.
 - c. This keeps the race from demonic invasion.
6. Other restrictions.
7. The effects of misuse of sex are ecological disaster.

Application questions:

1. What does blood in the Old Testament teach us about human control over matters that belong to God? Explain.

2. What is purpose for restrictions on sex?

3. How would you respond to legalistic claims in light of the message? Explain.
