

Loving Christ in All of Life
Week 16 - Crimes Against the Family
Leviticus 20:1-16

- The 2nd, 5th, and 7th commandments are very closely related, and all very neglected
 - Lev. 20 ties these three together - substitution of God's authority for that of idols, cursing of parents, and sexual depravity follow one another
 - Rejection of God's authority leads to the rejection of His delegated earthly authorities
- Functional law-orders must protect their foundations - sexual ethics is one of these foundations
 - The first government, training ground for the rest of life
 - Entrusted with the two most foundational elements of society - property and children
 - Sexual immorality subverts family government - it is treasonous
- Modern view of sex is completely individualistic
 - Consent is the only standard - sees sex in a vacuum, perceives no impact for anyone outside the direct participants
- Biblical law regards sex as covenantal and communal
 - Sex forms a new family unit - directly tied to family authority over marriage
 - Engaging in sexual immorality is to reject and rebel against parental authority, to deny any obligation to submit to family government, assertion of one's own autonomous will
 - Inverse of 5th commandment blessing
 - Leads to out of wedlock births, questions of lineage, lack of accountability, disease, divorce, demoralization
 - Easy making and breaking of covenants leads to cultural curse
- God's law punishes sexual immorality as treason
 - Biblically, treason is against God or against the family - not against the state

"Biblical culture is family based; there are no laws of treason against the state, because treason is seen as action against the peace and unity of the family. As a result, there is a penalty of death for treason against the family, whereas in modern culture, treason is an offense against the state...For modern man, the Biblical law of treason is primitive and barbaric. From the perspective of Biblical law, to make treason an offense against the state is implicitly totalitarian and socially destructive" (RJ Rushdoony).
- There is a logic behind the capital sex crimes in God's law
 - Rape, adultery, (most) incest, bestiality, sodomy
 - Criminal conviction requires at least three witnesses
 - Capital punishment in most cases is the maximum available penalty, not necessarily required