

10 "If there is any man among you who becomes unclean by some occurrence in the night, then he shall go outside the camp; he shall not come inside the camp.

11 "But it shall be, when evening comes, that he shall wash with water; and when the sun sets, he may come into the camp.

12 "Also you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out;

13 "and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and cover your refuse.

14 "For the LORD your God <sup>a</sup>walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you.

15 "You shall not <sup>b</sup>give back to his master the slave who has escaped from his master to you.

16 "He may dwell with you in your midst, in the place which he chooses within one of your gates, where it seems best to him; you shall not oppress him.

17 "There shall be no ritual <sup>a</sup>harlot\* of the daughters of Israel, or a perverted\* one of the sons of Israel.

18 "You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God.

19 "You shall not charge <sup>e</sup>interest to your brother—interest on money or food or anything that is lent out at interest.

20 "To a foreigner you may charge interest, but to your brother you shall not charge interest, that the LORD your God may bless you in all to which you set your hand in the land which you are entering to possess.

Instructions about vows

21 "When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it; for the LORD your God will

surely require it of you, and it would be sin to you.

22 "But if you abstain from vowing, it shall not be sin to you.

23<sup>f</sup> "That which has gone from your lips you shall keep and perform, for you voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.

24 "When you come into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes at your pleasure, but you shall not put *any* in your container.

25 "When you come into your neighbor's standing grain, <sup>g</sup>you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor's standing grain.

Mosaic law of divorce

24 "WHEN a man takes a wife and marries her, and it happens that she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some uncleanness in her, and he writes her a <sup>h</sup>certificate of <sup>i</sup>divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his <sup>j</sup>house,

2 "when she has departed from his house, and <sup>k</sup>goes and becomes another man's *wife*,

3 "if the latter husband detests her and writes her a certificate of divorce, puts *it* in her hand, and sends her out of his house, or if the latter husband dies who took her as his wife,

4 "then her former husband who divorced her must not take her back to be his <sup>l</sup>wife after she has been defiled; for that *is* an abomination before the LORD, and you shall not bring sin on the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Further regulations of holiness and mercy

5 "When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home <sup>m</sup>one year, and

\*23:17 Hebrew *qedeshah*, feminine of *qadesh* (see following note). \* Hebrew *qadesh*, that is, one practicing sodomy and prostitution in religious ritual

23:23 f Num. 30:2; Ps. 66:13,14  
23:25 g Matt. 12:1; Mark 2:23; Luke 6:1  
24:1 h Matt. 5:31; cp. Jer. 3:8  
i Mark 10:4  
j Matt. 19:7-8; cp. Matt. 5:32; 19:9  
24:2 k Cp. Lev. 21:7; Deut. 21:14  
24:4 l Cp. Jer. 3:1  
24:5 m Deut. 20:7

23:14  
a Lev. 26:12; Deut. 7:21  
23:15  
b 1 Sam. 30:15  
23:16  
c Ex. 22:21  
23:17  
d Lev. 19:29; Deut. 22:21  
23:19  
e Ex. 22:25; Lev. 25:35-37  
Prostitute  
H2490  
Kshaw - lat  
where  
to prostitute  
in kaws  
Zawnaw  
Zahnah  
H 2181

Female  
qedashah  
H6948  
male  
qadesh  
H6945  
qedash H6948  
to make holy

23:18 dog. A term used for a male prostitute, sodomite, or catamite. Lev. 18:22; 20:13.

Keleb H3611

they hired against you Balaam son of Beor, from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you. <sup>5</sup>(Yet the LORD your God refused to heed Balaam; the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you.) <sup>6</sup>You shall never promote their welfare or their prosperity as long as you live.

<sup>7</sup> You shall not abhor any of the Edomites, for they are your kin. You shall not abhor any of the Egyptians, because you were an alien residing in their land. <sup>8</sup>The children of the third generation that are born to them may be admitted to the assembly of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> When you are encamped against your enemies you shall guard against any impropriety.

<sup>10</sup> If one of you becomes unclean because of a nocturnal emission, then he shall go outside the camp; he must not come within the camp. <sup>11</sup>When evening comes, he shall wash himself with water, and when the sun has set, he may come back into the camp.

<sup>12</sup> You shall have a designated area outside the camp to which you shall go. <sup>13</sup>With your utensils you shall have a trowel; when you relieve yourself outside, you shall dig a hole with it and then cover up your excrement. <sup>14</sup>Because the LORD your God travels along with your camp, to save you and to hand over your enemies to you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.

<sup>15</sup> Slaves who have escaped to you from their owners shall not be given back to them. <sup>16</sup>They shall reside with

you, in your midst, in any place they choose in any one of your towns, whenever they please; you shall not oppress them. *NRSV*

<sup>17</sup> None of the daughters of Israel shall be a temple prostitute; none of the sons of Israel shall be a temple prostitute.

<sup>18</sup> You shall not bring the fee of a prostitute or the wages of a male prostitute<sup>b</sup> into the house of the LORD your God in payment for any vow, for both of these are abhorrent to the LORD your God.

<sup>19</sup> You shall not charge interest on loans to another Israelite, interest on money, interest on provisions, interest on anything that is lent. <sup>20</sup>On loans to a foreigner you may charge interest, but on loans to another Israelite you may not charge interest, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings in the land that you are about to enter and possess.

<sup>21</sup> If you make a vow to the LORD your God, do not postpone fulfilling it; for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you would incur guilt. <sup>22</sup>But if you refrain from vowing, you will not incur guilt. <sup>23</sup>Whatever your lips utter you must diligently perform, just as you have freely vowed to the LORD your God with your own mouth.

<sup>24</sup> If you go into your neighbor's vineyard, you may eat your fill of grapes, as many as you wish, but you shall not put any in a container.

<sup>25</sup> If you go into your neighbor's standing grain, you may pluck the ears with your hand, but you shall not put a sickle to your neighbor's standing grain.

*b* Heb *a dog*

Ammonite hostility against Israel. 7: Gen 25.24-26; 36.1.

**23.9-14:** A supplement to the rules for holy war (see ch 20). Ceremonial cleanness is demanded because *the LORD your God travels along with your camp*. **10-11:** Lev 15.16-17. **12-14:** The camp must be clean not just in the sense of being sanitary but in the sense of being *holy* (see Lev 11.1-47 n.).

**23.15-25.19: Laws dealing with humanitarian and religious obligations.**

**23.15-16:** In contrast with this humane law, the Code of Hammurabi decreed death as the penalty for sheltering a fugitive slave. **17-18:** A strict prohibition against sacred prostitution (see Gen 38.15 n.). **19-20:** See Ex 22.25 n.; Lev 25.35-38; Deut 15.1-11. Loans within Israel, as distinguished from loans to outsiders, were usually occasioned by financial desperation and therefore became means of oppressing a fellow-Israelite. **21-23:** See Lev ch 27. **24-25:** Neighbors' goodwill



GENESIS 38

had put Er to death and sent her on to have sex with wife Onan - withdraw his seed to death

wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death. 8 Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her; raise up offspring for your brother." 9 But since Onan knew that the offspring would not be his, he spilled his semen on the ground whenever he went in to his brother's wife, so that he would not give offspring to his brother. 10 What he did was displeasing in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also. 11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, "Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up"—for he feared that he too would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went to live in her father's house.

H6948 Qedeschah

F12181 Zaurah

12 In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died; when Judah's time of mourning was over, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. 13 When Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," 14 she put off her widow's garments, put on a veil, wrapped herself up, and sat down at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. She saw that Shelah was grown up, yet she had not been given to him in marriage. 15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a prostitute, for she had covered her face. 16 He went over to her at the road side, and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in

Judah approaches prostitute

Judah went into the temple prostitute's mother-goddess Ishtar

LEVIRATE MARRIAGE

to me?" 17 He answered, "I will send you a kid from the flock." And she said, "Only if you give me a pledge, until you send it." 18 He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord, and the staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. 19 Then she got up and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adullamite, to recover the pledge from the woman, he could not find her. 21 He asked the townspeople, "Where is the temple prostitute who was at Enaim by the wayside?" But they said, "No prostitute has been here." 22 So he returned to Judah, and said, "I have not found her; moreover the townspeople said, 'No prostitute has been here.'" 23 Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, otherwise we will be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her."

24 About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar has played the whore; moreover she is pregnant as a result of whoredom." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." 25 As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "It was the owner of these who made me pregnant." And she said, "Take note, please, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." 26 Then Judah ac-

g Heb when Judah was comforted

Er is attributed to a divine act, almost demonic in character. 8: According to the ancient widespread custom of levirate marriage (Deut 25.5-10; compare Ruth 4.1-12), the duty of a brother-in-law was to raise up a male descendant for his deceased brother and thus perpetuate his name and inheritance. 11: Judah apparently feared that the death of his two sons resulted from Tamar's sinister power. A widow was supposed to return to her father's house (Ruth 1.8-9; Lev 22.13).

votee of the mother-goddess Ishtar. Prostitution was connected with the worship of the nature gods of fertility (Deut 23.18; 1 Kings 14.24; 2 Kings 23.7; Hos 4.13; Am 2.7). 18: The signet was a ring or cylinder, often suspended around the neck by a cord and used to stamp one's "signature."

38.24: In Israel stoning was the usual punishment for adultery (Deut 22.23-24; compare Jn 8.5), although burning was prescribed for exceptional cases (Lev 21.9). 26: Tamar is singled out for approval, for judged by the levirate obligation, she was more in the right (see 6.9 n.) than Judah. Within the limitations of patriarchal society, she acted boldly to



4“and does not bring it to the door of the tabernacle of <sup>a</sup>meeting to offer an offering to the LORD before the tabernacle of the LORD, the guilt of bloodshed shall be imputed to that man. He has shed blood; and that man shall be cut off from among his people,

17:4

a Cp. Deut. 5:5-21

17:5

b Ezek. 20:28; cp. Deut. 12:1-27

17:6

c Ex. 29:13

17:8

d Lev. 18:26

17:9

e v. 4

f Lev. 14:23

17:10

g Lev. 3:17; 7:26-27; Deut. 12:16,23-25

h Lev. 20:3,6

17:11

i Gen. 9:4

j See Lev. 16:6, note

k Sacrifice (typical, prophetic): v. 11; Ps. 22:1. (Gen. 3:15; Heb. 10:18, note)

5“to the <sup>b</sup>end that the children of Israel may bring their sacrifices which they offer in the open field, that they may bring them to the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, to the priest, and offer them as peace offerings to the LORD.

6“And the priest shall sprinkle the blood on the altar of the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and <sup>c</sup>burn the fat for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

7“They shall no more offer their sacrifices to demons, after whom they have played the harlot. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.”

8“Also you shall say to them: ‘Whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the <sup>d</sup>strangers who dwell among you, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice,

9“and does not <sup>e</sup>bring it to the door of the tabernacle of <sup>f</sup>meeting, to offer it to the LORD, that man shall be cut off from among his people.

#### Significance of the blood

10“And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any <sup>g</sup>blood, I will <sup>h</sup>set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people.

11“For the <sup>i</sup>life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make <sup>j</sup>atonement for your <sup>k</sup>souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.’

12“Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.’

13“Whatever man of the children of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who hunts and catches any animal or bird that may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and <sup>l</sup>cover it with dust;

14“for *it is* the life of all flesh. Its blood sustains its life. Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘You shall not eat the blood of any flesh, for the life of all flesh is its blood. Whoever eats it shall be cut off.’

15“And every person who eats what died *naturally* or what was torn *by beasts, whether he is* a native of your own country or a stranger, he shall both wash his clothes and bathe in water, and be unclean until evening. Then he shall be clean.

16“But if he does not wash *them* or bathe his body, then he shall bear his guilt.”

#### V. Laws Regulating the Personal Relationships of the Redeemed People, 18—20

*Relationships and walk of God's earthly people: (1) unlawful marriages*

18 THEN the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,  
2“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: <sup>m</sup>‘I am the LORD your God.

3<sup>n</sup>‘According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and <sup>o</sup>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.

17:13

l Cp. Ezek. 24:7

18:2

m Lev. 11:44-45; 19:3

18:3

n Josh. 24:14; Ezek. 20:7-8

o Lev. 18:24-30; Deut. 12:30-31

TOPIC  
Sentence

17:7 demons. Deut. 32:17. Literally *hairy ones*. Ex. 34:16.

17:11 altar. Two especially important truths are pertinent here: (1) The value of the “life” is the measure of the value of the “blood.” This gives the blood of Christ its inconceivable worth. When it was shed the sinless God-man gave His life. “For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins” (Heb. 10:4). And (2) it is not the blood in the veins of the sacrifice, but the blood *upon the altar* which is

efficacious. The Scripture knows nothing of salvation by the imitation or influence of Christ's life, but only by that life yielded up on the cross. **blood.** The meaning of sacrifice for sin is here explained. Every such offering was an execution of the sentence of the law upon a substitute for the offender, and pointed forward to that substitutionary death of Christ which alone vindicated the righteousness of God in passing over the sins of those who offered the typical sacrifices (Rom. 3:24-25; see Ex. 29:33, note).



5 You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

6 None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD.

7a 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 b father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness.

9 The nakedness of your c sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

10 The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness.

11 The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father—she is your sister—you shall not uncover her nakedness.

12 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father.

13 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother.

14 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt.

15 You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law—she is your son's wife—you shall not uncover her nakedness.

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 d 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.

(2) Unlawful lust

19 Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as e long as she is in her customary f impurity.

20g Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your h neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

21 And you shall not let any of your descendants i pass through the j fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. *H8441 Tebah Ritual SIN*

22 You shall not lie with a k male as with a woman. It is an abomination.

23 Nor shall you mate with any l animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion.

24 Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am m casting out before you.

25 For the n land is defiled; o therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land p 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.

30 Therefore you shall q keep My

18:19

e Ezek. 18:6

f Lev. 15:24

18:20

g Prov. 6:25-33

h Ex. 20:14; Lev. 20:10

18:21

i Lev. 20:2-5; Deut. 12:31

j 2 Kin. 16:3

18:22

k Lev. 20:13; Rom. 1:27

18:23

l Ex. 22:19

18:24

m Lev. 20:23

18:25

n Num. 35:33-34

o Deut. 9:5

p Lev. 20:22

18:30

q Lev. 22:9

18:7

a vv. 7-16; cp. Lev. 20:11-21

18:8

b Cp. Gen. 35:22

18:9

c Deut. 27:22

18:17

d Lev. 20:14

18:21 Molech. Called Moloch, Acts 7:43. *Ritual SIN*

18:24 these things. This list of abominable practices which the Hebrews were to avoid vividly points out the utter degradation of Canaanite morality. Archaeological discoveries have brought many illustrations of this condition, which was so bad that a holy God had to order the com-

plete extermination of the Canaanites. Several centuries earlier God had predicted that by this time "the iniquity of the Amorites" would be complete (Gen. 15:16). Archaeology illustrates the increasing moral degeneracy of Canaanite civilization during this period.



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 <sup>a</sup>cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I *am* the LORD.

29 Do not <sup>b</sup>prostitute your daughter, to cause her to be a harlot, lest the land fall into harlotry, and the land become full of wickedness.

30 You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I *am* the LORD.

31 Give no regard to <sup>c</sup>mediums and familiar spirits; do not seek after them, to be defiled by them: I *am* the LORD your God.

32 You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and <sup>d</sup>fear your God: I *am* the LORD.

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.

35 You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight, or volume.

36 You shall have honest scales, honest weights, an honest <sup>e</sup>ephah, and an honest <sup>e</sup>hin: I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.

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

(7) Regulations about human sacrifices, spiritism, and various immoralities

**20** THEN the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

24 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 <sup>f</sup>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.

4 And if the people of the land should in any way hide their eyes from the man, when he gives *some* of his descendants to Molech, and they do not <sup>g</sup>kill him,

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.

6<sup>h</sup> And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people.

7<sup>i</sup> Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the LORD your God.

8 And you shall <sup>k</sup>keep My statutes, and perform them: <sup>k</sup>I *am* the LORD who sanctifies you.

9 For <sup>l</sup>everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. He has cursed his father or his mother. His <sup>m</sup>blood *shall* be upon him.

10 The man who commits <sup>n</sup>adultery with *another* man's wife, *he* who commits adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress, shall surely be put to death.

11 The man who lies with his <sup>o</sup>father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall* be upon them.

12 If a man lies with his <sup>p</sup>daughter-in-law, both of them shall surely be put to death. They have committed perversion. Their blood *shall* be upon them.

13 If a man lies with a <sup>q</sup>male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them.

14 If a man marries a woman and

20:4

g Deut. 17:2-5

20:6

h Lev. 19:31; 1 Sam. 28:7-25

20:7

i Heb. 12:14

20:8

j Lev. 19:19,37

k Ex. 31:13; Deut. 14:2; Ezek. 37:28

20:9

l Ex. 21:17; Prov. 20:20; Matt. 15:4

m vv. 11,13,16,17

20:10

n Ex. 20:14; Lev. 18:20; John 8:5

20:11

o Lev. 18:8

20:12

p Lev. 18:15

20:13

q Lev. 18:22; cp. Judg. 19:22

NUM DEU JOS

H8441  
 DEBAH  
 Ritual Sin  
 A 2 Jan. 18. 1

**Molech:** king. A god of the Ammonites whose worship required child sacrifices.



1552  
Romans 1:27  
see Rev 18:22  
see 20:13  
64  
POA  
177  
179  
283

(4) Result of Gentile world unbelief

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, (sexual immorality,\* wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving,\* unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

(5) Gentile pagan moralizers no better than other pagans

2 THEREFORE you are <sup>d</sup>inexcusable, O man, whoever you are

who judge, <sup>e</sup>for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

2 But we know that the <sup>f</sup>judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

3 And do you think this, O man, <sup>g</sup>you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the <sup>h</sup>judgment of God?

4 Or do you despise the <sup>i</sup>riches of His goodness, <sup>j</sup>forbearance, and <sup>k</sup>longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God <sup>l</sup>leads you to <sup>m</sup>repentance?

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the <sup>n</sup>day of wrath and revelation of the righteous <sup>o</sup>judgment of God,

6 who "will <sup>p</sup>render to each one according to his deeds":\*

7 eternal <sup>q</sup>life to those who by patient continuance in <sup>r</sup>doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

8 but to those who are <sup>s</sup>self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,

9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who <sup>t</sup>works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

11 For <sup>u</sup>there is no partiality with God.

12 For as many as have <sup>v</sup>sinned without law will also perish without

- 2:4
- i Rom. 9:23; Eph. 1:7; 2:4,7
- j Rom. 3:25
- k Ex. 34:6
- l 2 Pet. 3:9,15
- m Repentance: v. 4; Rom. 11:29. (Matt. 3:2; Acts 17:30, note)
- 2:5
- n Day (of judgment): v. 5; Rom. 2:16. (Matt. 10:15; Rev. 20:11, note)
- o Judgments (the seven): vv. 5-12; Rom. 2:16. (2 Sam. 7:14; Rev. 20:12, note)
- 2:6
- p Prov. 24:12
- 2:7
- q Life (eternal): v. 7; Rom. 5:21. (Matt. 7:14; Rev. 22:19, note)
- r Righteousness (garment): v. 7; Rom. 2:10. (Gen. 3:21; Rev. 19:8, note)
- 2:8
- s Cp. 2 Cor. 12:20; Gal. 5:19-20; Phil. 2:3; James 3:14,16
- 2:10
- t Righteousness (garment): v. 10; Rom. 13:14. (Gen. 3:21; Rev. 19:8, note)
- 2:11
- u Deut. 10:17; Acts 10:34
- 2:12
- v See Rom. 3:23, note

- 1:24
- a vv. 26,28; Ps. 81:12; cp. Acts 7:42; 2 Thess. 2:11-12
- 1:28
- b Eph. 5:4
- 1:32
- c Judgments (the seven): v. 32; Rom. 2:2. (2 Sam. 7:14; Rev. 20:12, note)
- 2:1
- d Rom. 1:20
- e Matt. 7:1-5
- 2:2
- f Judgments (the seven): v. 2; Rom. 2:3. (2 Sam. 7:14; Rev. 20:12, note)
- 2:3
- g Matt. 7:1-5
- h Judgments (the seven): v. 3; Rom. 2:5. (2 Sam. 7:14; Rev. 20:12, note)

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\*1:29 NU-Text omits sexual immorality. \*1:31 NU-Text omits unforgiving. \*2:6 Psalm 62:12

2:1 judge. The judging here is moral in nature, that is, ability to discern between right and wrong. The moralists of v. 1 were not condemned by Paul for their moral judgment but for their sin; they did the very things which they rightly judged to be wrong in other men.  
2:2 judgment. The basic principles of divine judgment are set forth in vv. 1-16 as follows: it will be according to (1) truth (v. 2), that is, an objective standard of conduct; (2) deeds (v. 6); (3) the light enjoyed (vv. 11-15); and (4) the Gospel by which the secret thoughts and motives

of men are judged (v. 16).  
2:7 doing good. In vv. 7 and 13 the cases are hypothetical. Paul is not teaching the possibility of salvation by works but is, rather, showing why all men without exception are lost. As he later states, no man has continued in doing good, nor is he a doer of the law (compare 3:19-20). The means of justification for sinners, entirely by faith in Christ, is set forth in 3:21-8:39. **immortality.** Or *incorruption*. 1 Cor. 15:53-54.



**4:25**  
 a Zech. 8:16  
**4:26**  
 b Ps. 4:4  
 c See Rom. 3:23, note  
**4:27**  
 d James 4:7  
 e Satan: v. 27; Eph. 6:11. (Gen. 3:1; Rev. 20:10, note)  
**4:28**  
 f Cp. Luke 3:11  
**4:29**  
 g Cp. Matt. 12:34-35  
 h Rom. 14:19; 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:26; 2 Cor. 10:8; 12:19; Eph. 4:12,29  
 i Grace: v. 29; Eph. 6:24. (John 1:14; John 1:17, note). See 2 Pet. 3:18, note  
**4:30**  
 j Holy Spirit (NT): v. 30; 5:18; Eph. 6:17. (Matt. 1:18; Acts 2:4, note)  
 k Assurance/security: v. 30; Phil. 1:6. (Ps. 23:1; Jude 1, note)  
 l See Eph. 1:13, note  
 m See Rom. 3:24, note  
**4:32**  
 n Luke 6:37  
 o Cp. Matt. 18:21-35  
 p Forgiveness: v. 32; Col. 1:14. (Lev. 4:20; Matt. 26:28, note)  
**5:1**  
 q 1 Pet. 1:14-16  
**5:2**  
 r Law (of Christ): v. 2; Eph. 5:25. (John 13:34; 2 John 5, note)  
 s John 15:9; 1 John 3:16  
 t Sacrifice (of Christ): v. 2; Eph. 5:25. (Gen. 3:15; Heb. 10:18, note)  
 u See Lev. 1:9, note

<sup>a</sup> "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another.  
<sup>26b</sup> "Be angry, and do not <sup>c</sup>sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,  
<sup>27d</sup> nor give place to the <sup>e</sup>devil.  
<sup>28</sup> Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.  
<sup>29</sup> Let no corrupt word proceed out of your <sup>g</sup>mouth, but what is good for necessary <sup>h</sup>edification, that it may impart <sup>i</sup>grace to the hearers.

(5) The walk of the believer as indwelt by the Spirit

<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy <sup>j</sup>Spirit of God, by whom you <sup>k</sup>were <sup>l</sup>sealed for the day of <sup>m</sup>redemption.  
<sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.  
<sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, <sup>n</sup>forgiving one another, <sup>o</sup>even as God in Christ <sup>p</sup>forgave you.

(6) The walk of the believer as God's dear child

**5** THEREFORE be imitators of God as dear <sup>q</sup>children.  
<sup>2</sup> And walk in <sup>r</sup>love, as Christ also has <sup>s</sup>loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a <sup>t</sup>sacrifice to God for a <sup>u</sup>sweet-smelling aroma.  
<sup>3</sup> But <sup>v</sup>fornication and all <sup>w</sup>uncleanness or <sup>x</sup>covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for <sup>y</sup>saints;  
<sup>4</sup> neither <sup>z</sup>filthiness, nor <sup>aa</sup>foolish talking, nor coarse <sup>bb</sup>jesting, which are not <sup>cc</sup>fitting, but rather <sup>dd</sup>giving of thanks. <sup>ee</sup>For this you know, <sup>ff</sup>that no <sup>gg</sup>fornicator, <sup>hh</sup>unclean person, nor <sup>ii</sup>covetous man, who is an idolater, has any <sup>jj</sup>inheritance in the <sup>kk</sup>kingdom of Christ and <sup>ll</sup>God.  
<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these

things the wrath of God comes upon the <sup>mm</sup>sons of disobedience.  
<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be <sup>nn</sup>partakers with them.  
<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are <sup>oo</sup>light in the Lord. Walk as children of light  
<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the Spirit\* is in all goodness, <sup>pp</sup>righteousness, and truth),  
<sup>10</sup> <sup>qq</sup>finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.  
<sup>11</sup> And have <sup>rr</sup>no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose <sup>ss</sup>them.  
<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to <sup>tt</sup>speak of those things which are done by them in secret.  
<sup>13</sup> But all things that are exposed are <sup>uu</sup>made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.  
<sup>14</sup> Therefore He <sup>vv</sup>says:  
 "Awake, <sup>ww</sup>you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."  
<sup>15</sup> See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>xx</sup>redeeming the time, because the days are evil.  
<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

III. The Walk and Warfare of the Spirit-filled Believer, 5:18—6:20

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(1) The inner life of the Spirit-filled believer

<sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the <sup>yy</sup>Spirit,  
<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making <sup>zz</sup>melody in your heart to the Lord,  
<sup>20</sup> <sup>aa</sup>giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>21</sup> <sup>bb</sup>submitting to one another in the fear of God.\*

**5:3**  
 v 1 Cor. 5:1; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; cp. 2 Cor. 12:21; Jude 7  
 w Col. 3:5-7  
 x Luke 12:15  
 y Cp. Rom. 1:7; 8:27; 12:13; 16:2  
**5:4**  
 z James 1:21  
 aa Titus 3:9  
 bb Cp. Prov. 26:19  
 cc Rom. 1:28  
 dd Phil. 4:6; Col. 3:17; 1 Thess. 5:18  
**5:5**  
 ee 1 Cor. 5:11  
 ff 1 Cor. 6:9-10  
 gg Kingdom (NT): v. 5; 1 Tim. 6:15. (Matt. 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:24, note)  
 hh See Matt. 6:33, note  
**5:6**  
 ii Eph. 2:2-3  
**5:7**  
 jj 1 Tim. 5:22  
**5:8**  
 kk 1 Thess. 5:5  
**5:9**  
 ll See 1 John 3:7, note  
**5:10**  
 mm Rom. 12:1-2  
**5:11**  
 nn 2 Cor. 6:14  
**5:12**  
 oo Cp. v. 3  
**5:13**  
 pp John 3:21  
**5:14**  
 qq Inspiration: v. 14; Eph. 5:32. (Ex. 4:15; 2 Tim. 3:16, note)  
 rr Is. 26:19; 60:1  
**5:16**  
 ss Col. 4:5  
**5:19**  
 tt James 5:13  
**5:21**  
 uu 1 Pet. 5:5

as distinguished from the old man (Rom. 6:6, note), and is a new man as having become a partaker of the divine nature and life (Col. 3:3-4; 2 Pet. 1:4), and in no sense the

old man made over, or improved (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:10; Col. 3:10). The new man is Christ "formed" in the Christian (Gal. 2:20; 4:19; Col. 1:27; 1 John 4:12).



named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

<sup>12</sup>For what *have I to do* with judging those also who are <sup>a</sup>outside? Do you not judge those who are inside?

<sup>13</sup>But those who are <sup>a</sup>outside God <sup>b</sup>judges. Therefore <sup>c</sup>“put away from yourselves the evil person.”

*Christians forbidden to go to law against each other before unbelievers*

**6 DARE** any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the <sup>d</sup>saints?

<sup>2</sup>Do you not know that the <sup>d</sup>saints will <sup>b</sup>judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

<sup>3</sup>Do you not know that we shall <sup>b</sup>judge <sup>e</sup>angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

<sup>4</sup>If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the <sup>f</sup>church to judge?

<sup>5</sup>I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his <sup>g</sup>brethren?

<sup>6</sup>But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!

<sup>7</sup>Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather *let yourselves* be cheated?

<sup>8</sup>No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and *you do* these things to your <sup>g</sup>brethren!

*III. The Sanctity of the Body; Christian Marriage, 6:9-7:40*

*The body is holy: (1) because it is washed and justified*

<sup>9</sup>Do you not know that the <sup>h</sup>unrighteous will not inherit the <sup>i</sup>kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither <sup>j</sup>fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor <sup>k</sup>homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the <sup>i</sup>kingdom of God.

<sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were <sup>k</sup>washed, but you were <sup>l</sup>sanctified, but you were <sup>m</sup>justified in the <sup>n</sup>name of the Lord Jesus and by the <sup>o</sup>Spirit of our God.

<sup>12</sup>All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

*(2) Because it is the Lord's*

<sup>13</sup>Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for <sup>p</sup>sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

<sup>14</sup>And God both <sup>q</sup>raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

<sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are <sup>r</sup>members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not!

<sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For <sup>s</sup>“the two,” He says, “*shall become one flesh.*”

<sup>17</sup>But he who is <sup>r</sup>joined <sup>t</sup>to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

<sup>18</sup>Flee <sup>p</sup>sexual immorality. Every <sup>u</sup>sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality <sup>u</sup>sins against his own body.

6:11

Cp. Eph. 5:26; Titus 3:5; see John 3:3, note

<sup>l</sup> Sanctification (NT): v. 11; 1 Cor. 7:14. (Matt. 4:5; Rev. 22:11, note)

<sup>m</sup> Justification: v. 11; Gal. 2:16. (Luke 18:14; Rom. 3:28, note)

<sup>n</sup> Cp. Acts 3:6,16; 4:10,12,17,18,30; 5:28,40,41; 8:12,16; 9:14,15,21,27,29; 10:43,48; 15:14,17,26; 16:18; 19:5,13,17; 21:13; 22:16; 26:9

<sup>o</sup> Holy Spirit (NT): v. 11; 1 Cor. 6:19. (Matt. 1:18; Acts 2:4, note)

6:13

<sup>p</sup> 1 Cor. 5:1; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; cp. 2 Cor. 12:21; Jude 7

6:14

<sup>q</sup> Resurrection: v. 14; 1 Cor. 15:4. (2 Kin. 4:35; 1 Cor. 15:52, note)

6:15

<sup>r</sup> Church (the true): vv. 15,17; 1 Cor. 10:17. (Matt. 16:18; Heb. 12:23, note)

6:16

<sup>s</sup> Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:5

6:17

<sup>t</sup> Cp. Rom. 7:4; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:30

6:18

<sup>u</sup> See Rom. 3:23, note

5:12

a Mark 4:11

5:13

b Judgments (the seven): v. 13; 6:2-3; 1 Cor. 11:31. (2 Sam. 7:14; Rev. 20:12, note)

c Cp. Deut. 17:7; 19:19; 22:21,24; 24:7

6:1

d Dan. 7:22; Matt. 19:28; cp. Rom. 1:7; 8:27; 12:13; 15:25; 16:2

6:3

e See Heb. 1:4, note

6:4

f Churches (local): v. 4; 1 Cor. 7:17. (Acts 8:3; Phil. 1:1, note)

6:5

g Matt. 23:8; Luke 8:21; John 21:23; Rom. 8:29; 15:14; Heb. 2:11,17; Rev. 12:10; 19:10

6:9

h Rom. 1:18; 6:13; 2 Thess. 2:10; 2 Pet. 2:13; 1 John 5:17

i See Matt. 6:33, note

j Cp. Rom. 1:26-27

\*6:9 That is, catamites

**6:15 Shall I then . . . ?** Both the authority of the Seventh Commandment and the apostle's appeal to the Christian's sacredness as a member of the body of Christ forbid unequivocally immorality of every kind.

**5:10; 6:2 world.** Greek *kosmos*. See Matt. 4:8, note.

**6:12 helpful.** Or *profitable*.

**6:13 Foods.** Observe that gluttony, as well as impurity, is a sin against God.