

Deuteronomy Chapter 22:13-29

Reading Chapter 22 – emphasis on verses 13-29.

- These scriptures from **V: 13-29** are obviously about aspects of marriage and sexual behavior or about various improprieties.
- This also details a very practical approach to dealing with these things when they occur, and to deter others from doing them.
- As we read through this portion of scripture – which along with chapter 23 we'll go over tonight verse by verse, our first impression might be that God is very strict or if we want to be complimentary we might say He is un-compromising in His standards.
- We see that these things are taken very seriously by the Lord to the point where it can lead to a persons death for violation of these laws.
- Fornication, adultery, rape, and incest are things that are also condemned in the New Testament as well and we can easily focus on the letter of the law in these situations and miss the spirit of the law.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 “⁵Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; ⁶who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

- As we examine this portion of scripture I don't think that the spirit alters the meaning of what is being said about purity, fidelity, and honor – nor does it negate the punishment for sin – which is death.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

- What the Spirit does with regard to this passage is give us understanding as to why? The Spirit helps us to see the motive – which is always God's great love!
- When God warns us about sin it is always for our benefit, it is always because God loves us and wants to keep us from harm.

1 John 4:15-16 “¹⁵Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. ¹⁶And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

- Some of these things may seem harsh on the outside, but we need to understand that the motive behind them is God's great love for us and His desire to protect us from the consequences of sin.

- Our God is a relational God and this is why He insists on our having a personal relationship with Him to enter into eternity with Him in heaven.
- 1. Because our God is relational and because He values relationships He addresses the most important relationship that we can have next to Him – and that is the relationship between a husband and a wife.
- 2. Obviously the relationship between husband and wife is foundational, central to the health and welfare of the family unit.
- 3. The general success or viability of the family then is central to the health of the culture and society as a whole, and thereby the nation itself.
- 4. So God says in effect through the law that we are going to safeguard marriage, and the family and in so doing ultimately safeguarding the nation.
- In our culture and society we're seeing the breaking down of our nation, the culture and society, the family, and marriages.
- We are in many ways reaping the results of the sexual revolution of the 60's & 70's.
- We're seeing the militant homosexual "rebellion" (it's not a movement, it's a rebellion against God) – which is being taught in our schools as being good, right, and preferable.

Isaiah 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter."

- It's been a long standing fact that most marriages end in divorce and that there is no distinction between Christian and non-Christian marriages.
- I wish there was a way to obtain information about Christians who really believe the Bible and live their faith, I'd like to think that the divorce rate in that group would be radically decreased – I'd like to think that.

Testimony: Denny's in Modesto last week – advertisement / poster with a typical family enjoying their meal – this typical family was missing something though – a husband & father. This has become the new normal.

- More often than naught if a man is involved it is a "blended family" – which is very prominent because our high divorce rate and re-marriages.

V: 13-19 The issue is whether the woman is a virgin or not, and because generally our culture doesn't value or encourage that we may not see what the issue really is.

- If the woman wasn't a virgin, there was the possibility that she could already be pregnant with another mans child and thus force the new husband to accept a child and heir that is not his own.

- This would in-turn undermine the stability of the marriage, giving rise to accusations and other serious questions.
- If it was determined that the woman had committed fornication, or if there was adultery involved obviously these would severely damage any marriage and so God put things in place to remove the sin from the people, and to discourage anyone else from harming themselves and the nation.
- Because of these laws the Jewish culture was radically different than the pagan cultures around them. Because so much of the family depended on the virtue of the woman, they valued and protected that virtue.

V: 23-27 Regarding rape, the woman's virtue is always a factor in their final determination.

- Because of these laws regarding virtue; again they took precautions to ensure it.
- Marriages in those days were arranged between parents, there was no dating. There was no off being by themselves without other people around.
- Dating is a modern development that came into common practice with the introduction of public schools.
- Dating is un-biblical and leads young people into temptations that very often they are not prepared to deal with.

V: 28-29 Says whether it is a case of rape or fornication they've just consummated their marriage and in God's eyes they are married.

- Bear in mind that we're talking about the law:
- All these things add to the breaking down of the family, the culture, and ultimately the nation.

Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

- Without God's word everything that is covered in these verse if left unchecked becomes sexual anarchy – or what some have called the sexual revolution.
- Since fornication and adultery have become so common place in our culture others have become emboldened to promote their cause: hence the homosexual rebellion.
- Still others are working in the wings to remove the stigma associated with pedophilia insisting that children as young as 3-5 years old can be willing sexual partners.

- All of these things are an abomination to God, He hasn't changed even if our culture has.
- Thus far I've only scratched the surface on the practical implications of the adherence to or the forsaking of God's word relative to these things, but there is a deeper issue that I'll mention briefly.
- Marriage besides being the basis of our culture and society is intended by God to be a model of His relationship with us, His bride. In that relationship God demands absolute virtue and purity.

Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it,"

Ephesians 5:31-32 ³¹For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³²This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

- God wants true purity and holiness in our relationship with Him – the problem is that none of us is pure or virtuous.

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one."

- Because of God's grace and love, the New Testament doesn't advocate the stoning or immediate execution of those involved in these things as does the Law.

John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

- There is the understanding that if those who are involved in these things continue in their sin – it will lead to their death naturally, and ultimately to their judgment in hell.

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 ⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (homosexuals), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (sodomites), ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God."

- As we read over these scriptures in Deuteronomy, or here in Corinthians many of us might be going down the check list of sins that have occurred in our own lives.
- And it is only because of the atoning death of Jesus on the cross we need not be stoned to death, we need not be condemned to hell.

- We can have forgiveness for our sins.

Paul continues:

1 Corinthians 6:11 “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

John 15:3 “Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

John 3:16-17 “¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”

- Make no mistake about God’s grace, his un-merited favor, it is not a license to continue to sin.

Romans 6:1-2 “¹What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

- There must be repentance, a turning away from sin.

Jesus said:

Luke 5:32 “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Peter preached:

Acts 3:19 “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”

1 John 1:8-9 “⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- Forgiveness is there for the taking, Jesus died to provide it for us, all we need to do is humble ourselves and admit that we need it.

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”