

## **Answers to Objections**

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In her radio show, Dr Laura Schlesinger said that, as an observant Orthodox Jew, homosexuality is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22, and cannot be condoned under any circumstance. The following response is an open letter to Dr. Laura, penned by a US resident, which was posted on the Internet. It's funny, as well as informative:

Dear Dr. Laura:

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's Law. I have learned a great deal from your show, and try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind them that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination ... End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some other elements of God's Laws and how to follow them.

1. Leviticus 25:44 states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?
2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?
3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of Menstrual uncleanness - Lev.15: 19-24. The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence.
4. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odour for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbours. They claim the odour is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?
5. I have a neighbour who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?
6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination, Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?
7. Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle-room here?
8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?
9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?
10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? Lev.24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

I know you have studied these things extensively and thus enjoy considerable expertise in such matters, so I'm confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging. Your adoring fan. James M. Kauffman, Ed.D. Professor Emeritus, Dept. Of Curriculum, Instruction, and Special Education University of Virginia (It would be a damn shame if we couldn't own a Canadian)

1. Leviticus 25:44 states that I may possess slaves, both male and female, provided they are purchased from neighbouring nations. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans, but not Canadians. Can you clarify? Why can't I own Canadians?

The permission to own slaves was given to Israel to own slaves from the nations around Israel. Permission was not given to other nations to have slaves. Slavery in Israel was different from other nations. It was tolerated by God that showed fairness and humanity to slaves

**Hebrews with Gentile slaves.** When the Israelites conquered the land of Canaan, they were to drive out or destroy all the former inhabitants. However, that order was not fully obeyed, and many Gentiles remained in the land. God allowed the Hebrews to take slaves from among that population: “Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. You can bequeath them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly” ([Leviticus 25:44–46](#)). So, the law did allow for slavery.

Several laws regulating slavery appear in [Exodus 21](#). These laws gave some basic rights to slaves and curtailed the actions of masters in a historically unprecedented way. In the ancient world outside of Israel, slaves had no rights. But God’s Law extended to slaves the right to keep a wife (verse 3), the right not to be sold to foreigners (verse 8), the right to be adopted into a family by marriage (verse 9), and the right to food and clothing (verse 10). The law also limited masters in their use of corporeal punishment (verses 20, 26–27). <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-slavery.html>

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2. I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as sanctioned in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

**Exodus 21:7** “Now if a man sells his daughter as a female slave, she is not to go free as the male slaves do. 8 If she is displeasing in the eyes of her master who designated her for himself, then he shall let her be redeemed. He does not have authority to sell her to a foreign people, because of his unfairness to her. 9 And if he designates her for his son, he shall deal with her according to the custom of daughters. 10 If he takes to himself another woman, he may not reduce her food, her clothing, or her conjugal rights. 11 But if he will not do these three *things* for her, then she shall go free for nothing, without *payment* of money.” NASB

Slave ownership was a common practice long before the time the [Mosaic Law](#) was given. So, the law neither instituted slavery nor ended it; rather, the law regulated it. It gave instructions on how slaves should be treated but did not outlaw slavery altogether.

**Hebrews with Hebrew slaves.** The law allowed for Hebrew men and women to sell themselves into slavery to another Hebrew. They could only serve for six years, however. In the seventh year, they were to be set free ([Exodus 21:2](#)). This arrangement amounted to what we might call indentured servanthood. And the slaves were to be treated well: “Do not make them work as slaves. They are to be treated as hired workers or temporary residents among you” ([Leviticus 25:39–40](#)). The law also specified that, “when you release them, do not send them away empty-handed. Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the LORD your God has blessed you” ([Deuteronomy 15:13–14](#)). The freed slave had the option of staying with his master and becoming a “servant for life” ([Exodus 21:5–6](#)). <https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-slavery.html>

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3. I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of Menstrual uncleanness – Lev 15:19-24. The problem is how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offence.

If a man has contact with an unclean woman he becomes ritually unclean until the evening and is to wash himself. If you do not know that a woman is unclean the man can still wash himself daily to remove any ritual uncleanness. It is not necessary for a stranger to know if a woman is unclean. Men in ancient Israel didn't go about asking women if they were unclean. Only the husband who shares the same bed should know. If a husband accidentally had sexual relations with a menstruate wife he was unclean for seven days (Lev 15:24). A man who wilfully had sexual relations with a menstruate wife under the law of Israel he was to be put to death. This law has not been abolished in the New Covenant.

**Lev 18:19** “Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity. NASB

**Lev 20:18** “If a man has sexual relations with a woman during her monthly period, he has exposed the source of her flow, and she has also uncovered it. Both of them are to be cut off from their people. NIV

“Cut off” is the divinely mandated death penalty in Ancient Israel. Also if a man had an nocturnal emission of semen he was also considered unclean.

**Leviticus 15:16-18** “Now if a man has a seminal emission, he shall bathe all his body in water and be unclean until evening. 17 As for any garment or any leather on which there is a seminal emission, it shall be washed with water and be unclean until evening. 18 If a man sleeps with a woman *so that* there is a seminal emission, they shall both bathe in water and be unclean until evening.” NASB

I wonder if the person who wrote the objection would like women to ask him if he had a nocturnal emission of semen the night before. I am sure he would take offence and object to that.

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4. When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odour for the Lord - Lev.1:9. The problem is my neighbours. They claim the odour is not pleasing to them. Should I smite them?

**Lev 1:2-3; 7-9** “2 ‘Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When anyone of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or the flock. 3 If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without defect; he shall offer it at the doorway of the tent of meeting, so that he may be accepted before the LORD....And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. 8 Then Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, with the head and the suet, on the wood which is on the fire that is on the altar. 9 Its entrails, however, and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it up in smoke on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering by fire as a soothing aroma to the LORD.” NASB

If anyone wants to offer a burnt offering to the Lord they will have to go to Israel and look for the Hebrew temple and a Priest who is a direct descendent of Aaron. The problem is the temple does not exist and there is not a person alive who can prove that he is a descendent of Aaron. Also this was only an Old Covenant ordinance that was replaced in the New Covenant by the sacrifice of Christ. If you want to pretend to be an Aaronic priest in your backyard sacrificing bulls that's up to you but I'm sure the local council will have something to say about it.

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5. I have a neighbour who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself, or should I ask the police to do it?

**Exodus 35:2** “For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day you shall have a holy day, a Sabbath of complete rest to the LORD; whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.” NASB

### **Killing Sabbath breakers**

Some evangelical preachers are teaching that if a Christian person today were to observe the Sabbath of God on the seventh day then they are required by Mosaic law to kill any and all people who fail to observe the Sabbath. This absurd idea comes from a reading of Exodus 35:2 and Exodus 31:12-15

**Exodus 31:12-15** "The LORD said to Moses, 13 "Tell the Israelites, 'Surely you must keep my Sabbaths, for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. 14 So you must keep the Sabbath, for it is holy for you. Everyone who defiles it must surely be put to death; indeed, if anyone does any work on it, then that person will be cut off from among his people. 15 Six days work may be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; anyone who does work on the Sabbath day must surely be put to death." NET

Simply put in the Christian church today we do not kill people who violate the Sabbath. That penalty was prescribed under the Old Covenant theocracy of Ancient Israel. Those people who make such claims that we are to kill Sabbath breakers are guilty of double standards. People who committed adultery or who consult spiritualist mediums were to be put to death in Ancient Israel. To be consistent these preachers would have kill their own parishioners who commit adultery or who consult spiritualist mediums? If not why not? The death penalty for those crimes was required under the Mosaic laws of God. There were quite a number of sins that if committed in Ancient Israel required the death penalty. Another one of them was the sin of Incest.

**Leviticus 18:8** "You must not have sexual relations with your father's wife; she is your father's nakedness." NET

**Leviticus 18:29** "For if anyone does any of these abominations, that person who does them will be cut off from the midst of the people." NET

The expression "Cut off" meant the death penalty. In the Corinthian Christian church there is recorded a case of Incest that Apostle Paul dealt with.

**1 Corinth 5:1-2** " It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife. 2 And you are proud!" ... NET

Here is a case of a sin being committed in the church that if done in Ancient Israel the guilty man would have received the death penalty by stoning. See how Paul dealt with this incest case in the Corinthian church.

**1 Corinth 5:12** "What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked person from among you." NET

In the New Testament community of faith we are to disfellowship those who disobey the law of God, we do not kill them. People outside the church are not for us to concern ourselves with. Therefore the idea that we in the church are to kill sabbath breakers is absurd.

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6. A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination, Lev. 11:10, it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this? Are there 'degrees' of abomination?

All sin is an abomination in the sight of God. Are there degrees of abomination? As a matter of fact there is. When in Pilates Judgement hall Jesus said this.

**John 19:11** "Jesus answered him, 'You would have no authority over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above; for this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin.' NASB

If there is a greater sin then logically there is a lesser sin. All sins are not the same. Disobeying God is a serious thing. Adam and Eve ate fruit that God specifically told them not to eat. That disobedience opened the flood

gate of sin into the world that was unforeseen by them. Eating shellfish is condemned in the bible but Homosexuality is one of the greatest abominations condemned in the bible and is a greater sin. Homosexuality it is put on the same level as bestiality.

**Lev 18:22** “You shall not sleep with a male as one sleeps with a female; it is an abomination. 23 Also you shall not have sexual intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.” NASB

The penalty for Homosexuality as well as Bestiality and other sexual perversions was to be cut off from the nation.

**Lev 18:24-25,29** “Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these things the nations which I am driving out from you have become defiled. 25 For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has vomited out its inhabitants.” ... 29 For whoever does any of these abominations, those persons who do *so* shall be cut off from among their people. NASB

The penalty of being “cut off” was capitol punishment. This was not so with the lesser abomination of eating unclean animals.

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7. Lev. 21:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle-room here?

**Lev 21:16-24** “Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 17 “Speak to Aaron, saying, ‘None of your descendants throughout their generations who has an impairment shall approach to offer the food of his God. 18 For no one who has an impairment shall approach: a man who is blind, or one who limps, or one who has a slit nose, or one with *any* conspicuous feature, 19 or someone who has a broken foot or broken hand, 20 or a contorted back, or *one who is* a dwarf, or has a spot in his eye, or a festering rash or scabs, or crushed testicles. 21 No man among the descendants of Aaron the priest who has an impairment is to come forward to offer the LORD’s offerings by fire; *since* he has an impairment, he shall not come forward to offer the food of his God. 22 He may eat the food of his God, *both* of the most holy and of the holy, 23 only he shall not come up to the veil or approach the altar, since he has an impairment, so that he does not profane My sanctuaries. For I am the LORD who sanctifies them.” 24 So Moses spoke to Aaron and to his sons and to all the sons of Israel.” NASB

The prohibition only referred to the priesthood, direct decendents of Aaron. No mention of any of the Israelites who were not allowed in the Holy place or Most holy place of the temple anyway.

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8. Most of my male friends get their hair trimmed, including the hair around their temples, even though this is expressly forbidden by Lev. 19:27. How should they die?

**Lev 19:26** “You shall not eat *any meat* with the blood. You shall not practice divination nor soothsaying. 27 You shall not round off the hairline of your heads, nor trim the edges of your beard. 28 You shall not make any cuts in your body for the dead, nor make any tattoo marks on yourselves: I am the LORD.” NASB

This prohibiton regarding haircuts and shaving the edges of your beard was regarding mourning rituals for the dead. Also getting tatoos as a memorial for the dead is also prohibited. Nothing to do with the latest hairstyle. As with the sin of sabbath violation. Penalties prescribed in Ancient Israel have nothing to do with the New Covenant church.

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9. I know from Lev. 11:6-8 that touching the skin of a dead pig makes me unclean, but may I still play football if I wear gloves?

**Lev 11:4, 7-8** “Nevertheless, you are not to eat of these, among those which chew the cud, or among those which have a divided hoof: the camel, for though it chews cud, it does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean to you... And the pig, for though it has a divided hoof, and *so* it shows a split hoof, it does not chew cud; it is unclean to you. 8 You shall not eat *any* of their flesh nor touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.” NASB

Clearly we are not to touch the dead bodies of unclean animals. If you touched their carcasses you would become ritually unclean and would have to wash and be considered unclean until evening.

**Lev 11:24** “By these, moreover, you will be made unclean; whoever touches their carcasses becomes unclean until evening, 25 and whoever picks up any of their carcasses shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.” NASB

**Matt 3:4** “Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.” NASB

Interesting that John the Baptist is wearing a coat made of Camel hair, an unclean animal, and a leather [animal skin] belt. Elijah the Prophet wore the same clothes. 2 Kings 1:8. A football made of pig skin surely would not be unclean after it had gone through the tanning process. A Jew would not skin a pig but a non Jew would. A football made of pig skin would be in the same category as Camel hair worn by John.

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10. My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend). He also tends to curse and blaspheme a lot. Is it really necessary that we go to all the trouble of getting the whole town together to stone them? Lev.24:10-16. Couldn't we just burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)

The Law of Mixtures. “My uncle has a farm. He violates Lev.19:19 by planting two different crops in the same field, as does his wife by wearing garments made of two different kinds of thread (cotton/polyester blend).”

**Lev 19:19** “You are to keep My statutes. You shall not cross-breed two kinds of your cattle; you shall not sow your field with two kinds of seed, nor wear a garment of two kinds of material mixed together.” NASB

**Deuteronomy 22:9-11** “You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, otherwise all the produce of the seed which you have sown and the yield of the vineyard will be forfeited to the sanctuary. 10 “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together. 11 “You shall not wear a material of wool and linen combined together. NASB

The Law of Mixtures. In the Old testament nation of Israel it was forbidden to wear clothing made of two types of cloth, wool and linen. It was forbidden to sow a vineyard with two types of seeds. It was forbidden to crossbreed different types of cattle. It was also forbidden to make incense and anointing oil as the same mixture as the temple services upon pain of death.

The Hebrew priests wore a garment made of mixed materials. Three different materials were used to make the priestly garments. Gold, sky-blue wool, dark-red wool, crimson-wool, and twisted linen. This is the same materials that the common people were forbidden to use when making their garments. The intention was to make a difference between the holy priesthood and the common people.

If an Israelite sowed his field with two types of seed the resulting crop was considered holy and was “forfeited to the sanctuary” NASB2020. This meant that the crop was holy. Mixed crops like mixed materials were for the Sanctuary and Priesthood. The cross breeding of cattle was prohibited to avoid the appearance of amalgamated animals such as the ones that appeared in the heavenly realm. In the temple and in visions of heaven were seen amalgamated animals. The cross breeding prohibition was to make a distinction between the Sanctuary and the common people.



The instructions regarding the anointing oil in Exodus 30:22-25. It was a sacred oil used only to anoint the sanctuary and the priests.

**Exodus 30:30** “Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. 31 Say to the Israelites, ‘This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. 32 Do not pour it on anyone else’s body and do not make any other oil using the same formula. It is sacred, and you are to consider it sacred. 33 Whoever makes perfume like it and puts it on anyone other than a priest must be cut off from their people.” NASB

These prohibitions regarding the laws of mixtures were to show the importance of maintaining clear distinctions between the sacred temple and the every day common people. The common people were forbidden to imitate the sacred sphere of God's temple on earth in their daily life. Now that the Old Covenant Sanctuary and priesthood on earth no longer exists it is not possible to duplicate priestly clothing or sacred oil. Also the planting of two types of seeds in the same crop can no longer be forfeited to a sanctuary that no longer exists. These prohibitions no longer serve any purpose so they no longer apply in the New Covenant just like the priesthood and animal sacrifices no longer apply.

**Death penalty:** “getting the whole town together to stone them? Lev.24:10-16... burn them to death at a private family affair, like we do with people who sleep with their in-laws? (Lev. 20:14)”

The application of the Old Covenant death penalty for sins committed in the New Covenant has been discussed in point number 5 regarding the killing of Sabbath breakers.

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“Old Testament Law for Christians” Roy Gane, 2017 Baker publishing group, Grand Rapids Michigan. p 342-346.