

Deuteronomy 13:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:

Analysis

The command: 'Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him.' This forbids complicity at every level: don't consent (agree), don't listen (entertain), don't pity (feel sympathy), don't spare (protect from consequences), don't conceal (hide the crime). The comprehensive prohibition prevents emotional attachment from overriding covenant duty. Even natural affection for family must not prevent reporting apostasy. This extreme demand underscores idolatry's gravity—it's spiritual treason meriting death. Love for God must exceed all human loves.

Historical Context

This law created radical covenant community where spiritual fidelity superseded family loyalty. New Testament parallels: Jesus said He came 'to set a man at variance against his father' (Matthew 10:34-36) when faith divides families. Early Christians faced this—parents disowned believing children, children reported Christian parents to authorities. The first commandment's exclusivity makes covenant loyalty ultimate, relativizing all other bonds. This doesn't mean hating family but prioritizing God above all.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do we love family members in practical ways while refusing to enable or conceal their sin?
2. What is the difference between appropriate family loyalty and sinful enablement of apostasy?
3. How does understanding that God's glory matters most help navigate conflicts between faith and family?

Interlinear Text

לֹא תִּתְאַבֵּה וְלֹא תִּשְׁמַע עַל־אָלֵי
H3808 Thou shalt not consent H0 H3808 unto him nor hearken H413 H3808

תִּתְחַנֵּן עַיְלָבָן וְלֹא שָׁלַח תְּחִנָּם לְאָלֵי
H2347 pity H5869 unto him neither shall thine eye H5921 H3808 him neither shall thou spare H2550

לֹא תִּתְכַּסֵּה עַל־לִי
H3808 neither shalt thou conceal H3680 H5921

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 1:10 (Parallel theme): My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Deuteronomy 19:13 (Parallel theme): Thine eye shall not pity him, but thou shalt put away the guilt of innocent blood from Israel, that it may go well with thee.

Deuteronomy 7:16 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that will be a snare unto thee.

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