

Leviticus 18:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.

Analysis

Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not any one of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God.

This verse falls within the section on **Unlawful Sexual Relations**. Prohibitions against various sexual sins, distinguishing Israel from Canaanite practices and protecting family sanctity.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

Historical Context

Prohibitions against various sexual sins, distinguishing Israel from Canaanite practices and protecting family sanctity. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with

Israel. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

וְשִׁמְרָתִ מִ	אַתָּה	מִשְׁמָרָתִי	לְבִלְתִּי	נָעַשׂ	כִּי	לְפָנֵיכֶם
Therefore shall ye keep	H853	mine ordinance	H1115	that ye commit	H6213	
H8104		H4931		H6213		
מְחֻקָּה וְתִתְעַבֵּת	אֲשֶׁר	נָעַשׂ	כִּי	לְפָנֵיכֶם		
customs	not any one of these abominable	H834	that ye commit	before		
H2708	H8441		H6213	H6440		
וְלֹא תַּעֲמִיד	אַתָּה בְּךָ מִ	אַתָּה בְּךָ מִ	וְלֹא תַּעֲמִיד	אַתָּה בְּךָ מִ	אַתָּה בְּךָ מִ	אַתָּה בְּךָ מִ
H3808	you and that ye defile	H0	H589	not yourselves therein I am the LORD	H3068	
	H2930					
אֱלֹהִיכֶם:						
your God						
H430						

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 20:23 (Parallel theme): And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.

Leviticus 22:9 (References Lord): They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them.