

## I. Introduction

A. Why did God give us this text? What is it teaching us about God? What is God revealing to us about ourselves and how we should live?

i. Leviticus 18:1-5

*Cultural norms are never the standard for the Christian. Morals are not relative to our surroundings...*

ii. Isaiah 48:17-19 If only...

### **B. Two dangers re: God's laws...**

i. *It is all about the sacrifices...obedience doesn't matter...*

■ Micah 6:6-8

ii. *It is all about the law, the sacrifices don't matter.*

■ Ezekiel 20:11,12

*The only way to walk in grace is to walk in the path held up by the dual truths of God's holiness revealed and God's mercy provided.*

## II. The practical nature of God's commands

A. Leviticus 19:9-18 ***Love your neighbor as yourself***

- James 5:4-5

B. Leviticus 19:33-34 Love the stranger as you love yourself...

- Luke 10:30-37
- Romans 13:8 *"he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law."*

### III. Love your Neighbor as Yourself..

A. This command is reiterated in the New Testament

- Matthew 22:39
- Mark 12:33
- Romans 13:8, 9
- Galatians 5:14
- James 2:8

B. How can you keep the royal law, if you don't keep it in the particulars?

## Drawing Lines

*Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.*

- Are Christians morals ever based on cultural norms?
  - What are some of the ways we might see churches in our day conforming their morals to culture?
  - What are some of the ways we might see Christians in our day conforming their morals to culture?
  - What are some of the ways you have been tempted to conform your morals to culture around us?
- Leviticus 18:5 is quoted by Paul in the New Testament, as well as by other Old Testament writers.
  - What misunderstanding of this verse does Paul seek to correct in Romans 10:5?
  - What is the proper understanding of this verse which Ezekiel 20:11,12 or Isaiah 48:17-19 illustrates for us?
- What are the 2 opposite errors which Israel fell into re: the laws of God? One is described well in Micah 6:6-8. The other can be seen in the Pharisees in Christ's day.
- Galatians 5:14 says, *"The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"*
  - How does Leviticus 19:9-18 illustrate this point? How many of the 10 commandments can you find in this text?
  - Why do you think God took the time in Leviticus to explain in detail the practical ways He wanted His people to apply the 10 commandments, and the law of love?
  - Can you find verses in Leviticus 19 that illustrate Jesus' teaching, "Whatever you do for the least you do for me"?
- Explain how Leviticus 19:17 is fulfilled in "if your brother sins, rebuke him." How is this command part of the law of love?
- Why would it be unloving to not go to him?