

Torah Studies – Statutes #486-488

Statute 486: If a man marries another wife, his provision for his first wife is not to be removed or diminished. This means he must still provide for his first wife’s immediate physical needs.

Statute 487: If a man marries another wife, he must also continue to provide for the future needs (retirement) and security of his first wife.

Statute 488: If a man fails to provide for his first wife, after having married another wife, the first wife is to be completely free of the marriage and of any obligations or entanglements from her first marriage.

Exodus 21:10-11 “If he take him **another** wife; her **food**, her **raiment**, and her **duty of marriage**, shall he not **diminish**. And if he do not these three unto her, then shall she go out **free** without money.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
ANOTHER	312	'achêr	<i>next, other</i> , another (man), following, next, strange
FOOD	7607	sh ^e êr	as living or for food; generally <i>food</i> of any kind; figuratively <i>kindred</i> by blood
RAINMENT	3682	k ^e sûth	a <i>cover</i> (garment); figuratively a <i>veiling</i> : - covering, raiment, vesture

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POLYGAMY:

Many people use this statute to say that it is perfectly okay to marry multiple wives. And indeed, this practice was done in Bible times. However, in every recorded case, the practice of polygamy resulted in great trials, trouble, and heartache.

Also, if it was Yahweh’s original intent for a man to marry more than one wife, would He not have made at least two women at Creation? Eden gives us the template of marriage (Genesis 2:21-25) and it is clearly about two becoming one.

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Also, because this Genesis account is the first mention of marriage in Torah, it is given “right of first mention.” This means that the first mentioning of a Torah principle lays the foundational concepts from which all other related statutes are built up. So, the original Plan of Yahweh is plain, regarding marriage. Marriage was originally meant to be between one man and one woman.

In fact, a godly marriage is a portrayal of the Marriage of Messiah to His Bride. And this spiritual Marriage, which our marriage relationships are to point to, involves a monogamous relationship.

PROVISION FOR THE SPOUSE: Polygamy was not Yahweh’s original Plan, in fact there were certain people (like the kings of Israel) who were told not to have multiple wives... Deuteronomy 17:17.

Yet, for the most part, polygamy was neither encouraged nor forbidden, in *Torah*. Still, if a man did marry more than one wife, he was to still make sure the financial and future (retirement) needs of his first wife were well provided for. The reason he was still commanded to have marital relations with his first wife was so that she could have children to provide for her, in her old age. This is what is meant by “her duty of marriage”.

If a man failed to provide for the needs – and future needs – of his first wife, after marrying again, the first wife was free to leave the marriage, implying she was also free to marry again – seeking provision for her needs now and for the future, elsewhere.

This Statute clause was provided by the mercy of Yahweh, showing His tender care toward His more defenseless children. Godly women had no ability, in Bible times, to provide for themselves. Their provision came through the men in their family. So, if a husband was no longer caring for his first wife, Yahweh provided an exit clause for her, so that she would not be left forgotten, without proper provision and care.

Torah Studies – Statutes #489-492

Statute 489: A priest of Yahweh may not marry a prostitute.

Statute 490: A priest of Yahweh may not marry a person who is morally or spiritually polluted (idolatrous), or one is physically polluted (has had sex outside of marriage).

Statute 491: A priest of Yahweh may not marry a woman who has been divorced.

Statute 492: A high priest of Yahweh may not marry a widow, but may only marry a virgin.

Leviticus 21:7, 10 & 13-14 “They (the priests) shall not take a wife that is a **whore**, or **profane**; neither shall they take a woman **put away** from her husband: for he is **holy** unto his God... And he that is the **high priest** among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments... shall take a wife in her virginity. A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, or an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin **of his own people** to wife.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
WHORE	2181	zânâh	to commit adultery, to commit fornication, to commit idolatry
PROFANE	2491	châlâl	pierced (especially to death); figuratively polluted: (deadly) wounded, prostitute
PUT AWAY	1644	gârash	to drive out from a possession; especially to expatriate or divorce
HOLY	6918	qâdôsh	Sacred, a saint, a sanctuary: - holy, saint
HIGH	1419	gâdôl	Great, older, elder (-est), exceeding (-ly), great man, mighty, noble
PRIEST	3548	kôhên	one officiating, a priest, chief ruler, acting priest, principle officer
OF HIS OWN PEOPLE	5971	‘am	a people (as a congregated unit); specifically a tribe (as those of Israel); figuratively a flock

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BIBLE STUDY ON MARITAL PURITY:

Both Leviticus 21 and Ezekiel 44 require a priest of Yahweh to take care in who he marries. This care, to be exercised by all priests of Yahweh, applies to all believers – since we are all called to serve Yahweh as “priests and kings”.

Priests are to serve Yahweh in holiness – safeguarding the holiness of everything closely associated with Yahweh. One of the ways to safeguard holiness is to avoid pollution. Death is a pollution; thus, priests were prohibited from any contact with the dead, except for immediate family members (Lev 21:1-4).

Immediately following the laws restricting contact with the dead (vv. 1-4) are the laws about maintaining the priest’s (and his family’s) holiness with respect to marriage (vv. 6-9). This is followed by laws for the high priest, in the same order: first the limitations on his mourning prerogatives (vv. 10-12) and next the limitations on whom he may marry (vv. 13-15).

Ordinary Priests

- Leviticus 21:7 lists the types of women whom a priest is forbidden to marry:
- וְיִקְרָא כֹהֵן אִשָּׁה זֹנָה וְנִחְלָלָה לֹא יִקְחוּ וְאִשָּׁה גְרוּשָׁה מְאִישָׁה לֹא יִקְחוּ כִּי־קֹדֶשׁ הוּא לֵאלֹהֵינוּ:
- Lev 21:7 They shall not marry a woman who is a prostitute or a profane woman, and they shall not take a wife divorced from her husband, for he [the priest] is holy unto his God.
- Three categories of women are prohibited:
 - Prostitute (זֹנָה)
 - Profane woman (נִחְלָלָה, likely meaning a woman who had sex outside of marriage; see appendix)
 - Divorcée (אִשָּׁה גְרוּשָׁה מְאִישָׁה)

High Priest

- As with the other laws in this chapter, the regulations on the high priest are stricter:
- וְיִקְרָא כֹהֵן יָגִיד וְהוּא אִשָּׁה בְּתוּלָהּ יִקַּח:
- Leviticus 21:13 He shall marry a woman in her virginity.
- כֹּהֵן יִקַּח אִשָּׁה: אֵלְמִנָּה וְגְרוּשָׁה וְנִחְלָלָה זֹנָה אֶת־אִלָּה לֹא יִקַּח כִּי אִם־בְּתוּלָהּ מִעַמּוּיו יִקַּח אִשָּׁה:
- 21:14 He shall not marry a widow, a divorcée, a profane woman, or a prostitute. He shall marry only a virgin of his own people.
- The order in which the prohibited categories are listed here is the reverse of that in the law for ordinary priests (above); more significantly, the list includes an additional prohibition of marrying a widow. The sequence is:

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- Widow (אַלְמָנָה)
- Divorcée (גְרוּשָׁה)
- Profane woman (הַלְלָה)
- Prostitute (זֹנֶה)

In prohibiting even a widow, the text requires that the high priest marry a virgin. Moreover, the text requires that this virgin be “of his own people” (מֵעַמּוֹ), a vague term that can refer to a group as small as a family or as large as a nation.

Ezekiel 44 also lists laws about whom priests may marry. This legislation is part of the final section of Ezekiel (chs. 40-48), which lays out a prophetic vision of the rebuilt temple and is likely based on some version of the legislation in Leviticus. Unlike the Torah, Ezekiel 44 makes no mention of a high priest, and the marital restrictions on priests are somewhere between those that Leviticus 21 prescribes for ordinary priests and those that it prescribes for the high priest:

- Ezekiel 44:22 They shall not marry a widow or a divorcée; they shall marry only virgins of the seed of the house of Israel. But they may marry the widow of a priest.

This text explicitly prohibits any priest from marrying a widow or a divorcée. The prostitute and profane woman are not mentioned explicitly, but the text clarifies that priests are required to marry virgins who are Israelites (likely an interpretation of עַמּוֹ, “his own people” [Leviticus 21:14]). The one stark difference between Ezekiel’s explanation of the Law concerning all priests and that of Leviticus concerning the high priest is that Ezekiel makes it clear that a priest may marry the widow of another priest.

A priest was not simply prestigious, but holy, and, as noted at the start of this study, holiness is specifically safeguarded by avoidance of pollution. In keeping with this, I believe that these laws reflect a notion, common throughout the Bible, that a man who has sex with a woman marks her permanently, leaving her, so to speak, with something of his “essence.”

When sex takes place outside marriage, it may be regarded as contaminating, or polluting. The root טמא, “pollute,” is frequently used to describe the effect of adultery. There is also one case in which it is used to describe what we would call “premarital sex.” When Shechem lies with the unmarried Dinah, the text says:

בראשית לד: ה' וַיִּעַקֵּב שָׁמֶעַ כִּי טָמְאָה אֶת דִּינָה בִּתּוֹ...

Gen 34:5 Jacob heard that he had polluted his daughter Dinah...

Torah Studies – Statutes #493-495

Statute 493: Marriage is to be entered into with complete disclosure on the part of the couple. The young man should not find out that his new bride is not a virgin on the wedding night.

Statute 494: If a new husband hates his wife, he may not get out of the marriage unjustly damaging her reputation or besmirching her character.

Statute 495: When a young person, living at home, sleeps around playing “the whore”, they bring sin and ill-repute upon the house of their father.

Deuteronomy 22:13-21 “If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and **hate** her, And give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an **evil name** upon her, and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a **maid**: Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth [the tokens of] the damsel's virginity unto the elders of the city in the gate: And the damsel's father shall say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her; And, lo, he hath given **occasions** of **speech** [against her], saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these [are the tokens of] my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the **cloth** before the elders of the city. And the elders of that city shall take that man and chastise him; And they shall amerce him in an hundred [shekels] of silver, and give [them] unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days. But if this thing be true, [and the tokens of] virginity be not found for the damsel: Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought **folly** in Israel, to **play the whore** in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
HATE	8130	śânê'	to <i>hate</i> (personally): - enemy, foe, (be) hateful, odious, utterly
EVIL	7451	ra'	<i>Bad, evil</i> , adversity, affliction, wickedness calamity, displeasure, evil-favoredness,

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Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
NAME	8034	shêm	<i>appellation</i> , a mark or memorial of individuality; <i>honor, authority, character</i>
MAID	1331	b ^e thûlîym	<i>virginity</i> ; by implication and concretely the <i>tokens</i> of it: - maid, virginity
OCCASIONS	5949	ʿălylâh	sense of <i>effecting... an opportunity</i> : deed, doing, invention, occasion, work
SPEECH	1697	dâbâr	a <i>word</i> ; a <i>matter</i> (as spoken of) of <i>thing</i> ; a <i>cause</i> , question, rate, reason, report
CLOTH	8071	śimlâh	a <i>cover</i> , a <i>dress</i> , especially a <i>mantle</i> : - apparel, cloth, garment, raiment
FOLLY	5039	n ^e bâlâh	<i>foolishness, wickedness</i> ; a <i>crime</i> ; <i>punishment</i> : - folly, vile, villainy
PLAY THE WHORE	2181	zânâh	highly <i>fed</i> and therefore <i>wanton</i>); to <i>commit adultery</i> , to <i>commit idolatry</i> , <i>commit fornication</i>

Biblical Perspective on the Value of a Good Name

In the Statutes, we have seen that it was possible to marry someone who had been divorced, or widowed. In both cases, the prospective marriage partner, would clearly not have been a virgin. The issue in this set of statutes is not about a requirement for virginal status in a new bride, rather the issue in this set of statutes is about full disclosure and having a good reputation.

If a new husband only found out that his bride was not a virgin on the wedding night, the Statutes make it plain that he can step out of the marriage, calling it immediately null and void. Deception in the matter is unacceptable. The man could choose to marry someone who had married before, but it wasn't okay to deceive him into thinking his bride was a virgin, when she really wasn't.

Beyond honesty and transparency, this Statute requires the guarding of one's reputation. It isn't okay to make unfounded accusations, smearing a person's character and reputation – and also impacting the honor and reputation of the family of the tarnished bride.

Proverbs 22:1 says, "A good name is to be more desired than great wealth, / Favor is better than silver and gold." Clearly, the Bible encourages us to keep good reputations, whenever possible. This idea is echoed in Ecclesiastes 7:1, which says, "A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume" (NLT).

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The Bible is clear that a good reputation is of great value and is therefore something that we should strive to earn and maintain.

As Christians, our number-one priority is to represent Christ well to this lost and broken world (Acts 1:8). Because Yahshua is honest and honorable, we should strive to be those things as well (Ephesians 5:1), and all of those qualities contribute to a good reputation. People evaluate the worthiness of our message based on our reputations as people of character. If we have poor reputations, our message is tainted as well. Dishonesty, gossip, and hypocrisy damage our testimonies and do not reflect the Character of Yahshua. Many will not heed our words when our reputations do not match what we claim to believe.

So what is a good reputation, and how do we maintain it? People with good reputations are those who live with integrity. Their private lives match their public personas. There are no hidden agendas, double lives, or dishonest practices. They live authentically, and, when they sin, they quickly make it right with those they offended (Matthew 5:23–24). They keep their word, treat others respectfully, and accept their responsibilities. They treat their families well, and, because they are consistent, others know what to expect of them.

When Paul and Silas passed through Lystra on Paul's second missionary journey, they found a disciple named Timothy (Acts 16:1). Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him on his journeys and aid the ministry (verse 3). Timothy left home and followed Paul, and thus began a lifelong friendship. Factoring into Paul's decision to select Timothy for ministry work is verse 2: "The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of [Timothy]." In other words, Timothy had a good reputation.

There are times when our reputations are tarnished through no fault of our own. Gossip, slander, and lies can cast a shadow over the most stellar of reputations. In those times, we can follow the example of Yahshua. Philippians 2:7 says that Yahshua "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (KJV). The Son of God knew that, when He left the Throne Room of Heaven to come to earth as a Man, His exalted reputation would not follow Him. His rights to be worshiped, adored, and praised had to be set aside in order to accomplish God's higher goal. So He left His reputation behind and entered a world where He would be misunderstood, mocked, and lied about (Matthew 26:59–60). The Son was willing to entrust His reputation to His Father, and, whenever we are wrongly accused, we can do the same (1 Peter 2:22–23).

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Romans 12:18 says, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” We live peaceably when we make the kinds of choices that lead to good reputations. We seek ways to do good, we have proved ourselves to be people of virtuous character, and others have learned to trust us. We avoid being stained by the world (James 1:27). And, although there are times when our reputations are tainted due to the dishonesty of others, God wants us to live in such a way that those who know us won’t believe the slander. “Your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you” (1 Peter 2:15, NLT).

Torah Studies – Statutes #496-497

Statute 496: A man may not commit fornication with a woman, a virgin, who is engaged to another man. Fornication is a crime worthy of death to both participants.

Statute 497: A man may not commit rape. Rape is a crime worthy of death to the perpetrator. The victim is not held responsible for the crime in any way, if the woman did her best to prevent the attack and cried out for help.

Deuteronomy 22:23-27 “If a **damsel** [that is] a virgin be **betrothed** unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she **cried** not, [being] in the city; and the man, because he hath **humbled** his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you... But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man **force** her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die: But unto the damsel thou shalt do nothing; [there is] in the damsel no sin [worthy] of death: for as when a man riseth against his neighbour, and slayeth him, even so [is] this matter: For he found her in the field, [and] the betrothed damsel cried, and [there was] none to save her.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
DAMSEL	5291	na'ārâh	a <i>girl</i> (from infancy to adolescence): - damsel, maid (-en), young (woman)
BETROTHED	781	'âraś	to <i>engage</i> for matrimony: - betroth, espouse
CRIED	6817	tsâ'aq	to <i>shriek</i> ; to <i>proclaim</i> (an assembly) at all, call together, cry (out)
HUMBLED	6031	'ânâh	<i>looking down, browbeating</i>); to <i>depress</i> abase self, afflict, defile, weaken
FORCE	2388	châzaq	to <i>fasten</i> upon; to <i>seize, be strong, to bind, restrain, conquer, force, prevail</i>

Torah Studies – Statutes #498-502

Statute 498: Do not uncover nor look upon the nakedness of anyone related to you, including: father, mother, sister, brother, niece, brother's wife, daughter-in-law, or your aunt.

Statute 499: A wife's nakedness is the nakedness (shame) of her husband.

Statute 500: Do not uncover nor look upon the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor any kinsmen of the woman. It is wickedness.

Statute 501: Do not uncover the nakedness of a woman (implied wife), nor be sexually involved with her during her time of menstruation.

Statute 502: Do not uncover, look upon the nakedness of, nor be sexually involved with another man's wife.

Leviticus 18:4-20 “Ye shall do My Judgments, and keep Mine Ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God. Ye shall therefore keep My Statutes, and My Judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD. None of you shall approach to any **that is near** of kin to him, to **uncover** their **nakedness**: I am the LORD. The nakedness of thy father, or the nakedness of thy mother, shalt thou not uncover: she is thy mother; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. The nakedness of thy father's wife shalt thou not uncover: it is thy father's nakedness. The nakedness of thy sister, the daughter of thy father, or daughter of thy mother, whether she be born at home, or born abroad, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover. The nakedness of thy son's daughter, or of thy daughter's daughter, even their nakedness thou shalt not uncover: for theirs is thine own nakedness. The nakedness of thy father's wife's daughter, begotten of thy father, she is thy sister, thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's sister: she is thy father's near kinswoman. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy mother's sister; for she is thy mother's near kinswoman. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy father's brother, thou shalt not approach to his wife: she is thine aunt. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy daughter in law: she is thy son's wife; thou shalt not uncover her nakedness. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of thy brother's wife: it is thy brother's nakedness. Thou shalt not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, neither shalt thou take her son's daughter, or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; for they are her near kinswomen: it is **wickedness**. Neither shalt thou take a wife to her sister, to **vex** her, to uncover her nakedness, beside the other in her life time. Also thou shalt not approach unto a woman to uncover her nakedness, as long as she is **put apart** for her uncleanness. Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbor's wife, to **defile** thyself with her.”

Torah Studies – Statutes #498-502 (continued)

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
THAT IS NEAR	H7607	sh ^e ēr	<i>Flesh</i> , figuratively <i>kindred</i> by blood
UNCOVER	H1540	gâlâh	to <i>denude</i> (especially in a disgraceful sense); to <i>reveal</i> :; X shamelessly, show, uncover
NAKEDNESS	H6172	‘ervâh	<i>nudity</i> , literally (especially the <i>puḏenda</i>) or figuratively (<i>disgrace, blemish</i>): - nakedness, shame, unclean (-ness)
WICKEDNESS	H2154	zimmâh	a <i>plan</i> , especially a bad one: - heinous crime, lewd (-ly, -ness), mischief, purpose, thought, wicked (device, mind, -ness)
VEX	H6887	tsârar	to <i>cramp</i> , adversary, (be in) afflict (-ion), besiege, bind (up), (be in, bring) distress, enemy, oppress, (trouble), vex
PUT APART	H5079	niddâh	<i>impurity</i> , especially personal (menstruation) or moral (idolatry, incest): - X far, filthiness, X flowers, menstruous (woman)
DEFILE	H2930	ṭâmê'	To <i>be foul</i> , especially in a moral sense (<i>contaminated</i>): - defile (self), pollute (self), be (make, make self, pronounce) unclean

Bible Study on Moral Purity:

MORAL FREEDOM is having our physical drives under the full control of the Holy Spirit. Through the indwelling Grace of God, we are empowered to transform our physical drives into spiritual power. When this is accomplished, our influence and ministry on behalf of others will be a life-giving blessing, as God intended. "...As the Scripture hath said, out of his belly (innermost being) shall flow rivers of living water," (John 7:38). This is true moral freedom.

What does it Mean to be Morally Free?

"Moral freedom is not the right to do whatever you want. It is the (Heaven-given) power to do what you ought," (Principles of Freedom, p3)

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Perhaps one could accurately liken our physical desires to blasting wind. Unleashed and uncontrolled, these urges are totally devastating, the spiritual and emotional equivalent to a destructive tornado or hurricane. But, when brought under the Holy Spirit's control, those drives bring benefit and blessing to all we meet. Moral purity is victory over lust. Only in moral purity do we find true spiritual freedom.

- **2 Timothy 2:22** *"Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on Yahweh out of a pure heart."*
- **Galatians 5:16-17** *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."*

How do our Physical Drives (lusts) Get out of Control in the First Place?

Our physical drives become dominant when our three basic drives are out of balance. Our three basic drives are spirit (spiritual), soul (mind, will, and emotions) and body.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:23** *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Sovereign Yahshua Christ."*

Our spiritual driving force should be dominant, with our soul and body in harmony and under subjection to God's leading in our spirit.

SPIRIT DRIVING FORCE—should be the dominant driving force, possessed with the Holy Spirit.

- **Ezekiel 37:14** *"And shall put My Spirit in you, and ye shall live..."*
- **Proverbs 20:27** *"The spirit of man is the candle of Yahweh, searching all the inward parts of the belly."*

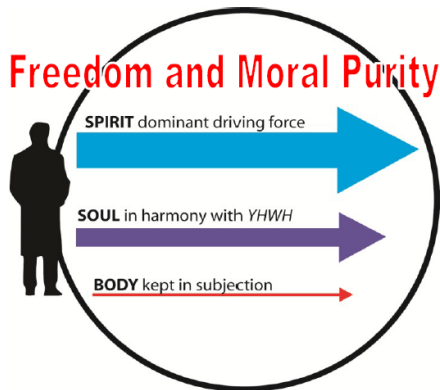
SOUL DRIVING FORCE—in harmony with God

- The Bible defines SOUL as mind, will, and emotions:
- **SOUL IS THE MIND** (What we KNOW) - **Psalm 139:14**— *"...my soul knoweth right well."*
- **SOUL IS THE WILL** (What we DESIRE) - **Revelation 18:14**— *"And the fruits that thy soul lusted after..."*
- **SOUL IS THE EMOTION** (What we FEEL) - **Psalm 42:5**— *"Why art thou cast down, O my soul?..."*

PHYSICAL DRIVING FORCE—Kept under subjection

- **1 Corinthians 9:27** *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*

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When our spiritual drives are dominant, the soul is in harmony, and the physical driving forces are kept under subjection; we are whole, healthy, and in balance. When we take steps down the path of reprobation, we become more and more physically driven and less and less spiritually motivated 3.

What is Reprobation?

When our minds are fully reprobate, we can no longer comprehend spiritual things, nor discern Truth at all (see Romans 1:28).

Titus 1:15-16 *“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”*

Jeremiah 6:30 *“Reprobate silver shall men call them, because God hath rejected them.”*

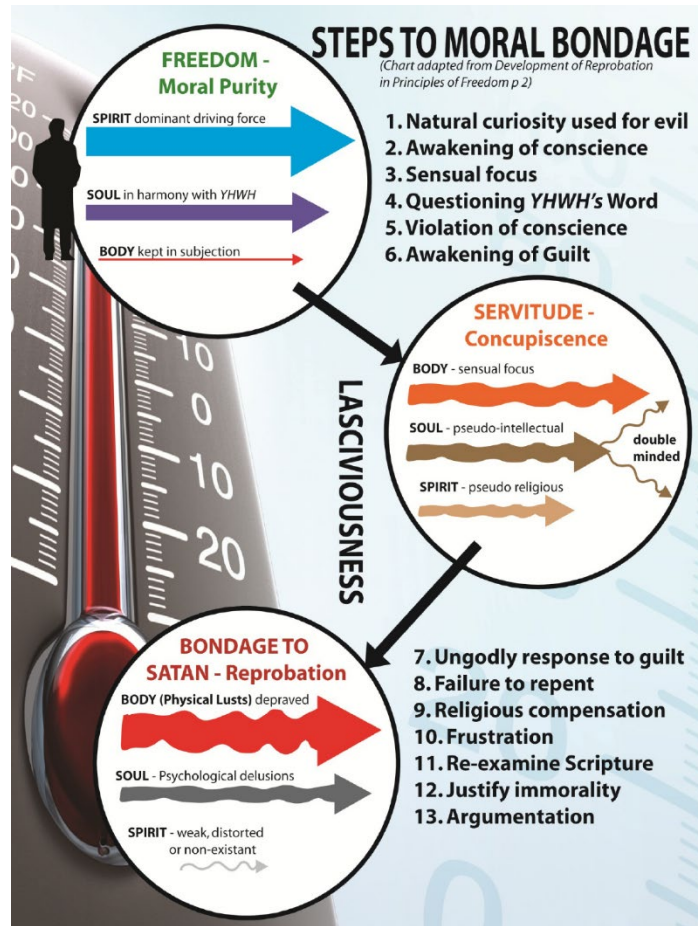
What does the Bible mean when it uses the word “reprobate?”

□ In the Greek (New Testament Source), the word “reprobate” is Strong’s Concordance number 96:

- —ἀδόκιμος (*ad-ok'-ee-mos*) - “unapproved, that is, rejected; by implication worthless (literally or morally): - castaway, rejected, reprobate.”

□ In the Hebrew (Old Testament Source), the word “reprobate” is Strong’s Concordance number 3988:

- מַאֲסָה (*maw-as'*) - “to spurn... abhor, cast away (off), contempt, despise, disdain, (become) loathe (-some)... reject, reprobate, utterly vile person.”



“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate,”
Titus 1:16.

Torah Studies – Statutes #498-502 (continued)

Thus, a reprobate person is unprincipled, depraved, and unable to discern evil. They are cast-off from God, rejected by Him and are not (in this condition) saved. Clearly, this is not a condition any of us should desire to be in!

What are Lasciviousness & Concupiscence?

When we stir up ungodly physical desires the Bible calls it lasciviousness (see 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19) Lasciviousness becomes concupiscence, a condition about midway through in the development of reprobation. Concupiscence is a strong, ungodly desire, a burning lust.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:4-5** “That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God.”

Many Christians wrongly assume that if they just indulge in a little bit of lust, it will satisfy the ungodly desire. But, actually the opposite happens. The more a lust is fed, the hotter it burns, like a fire being fed with gasoline. The more it is indulged, the deeper the depravity and the further the development of reprobation.

- **Romans 1:27-28** “And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, **burned in their lust** one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. **And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.**”

How can the Fire of Lust be Quenched?

ANSWER: One cannot put out the fires of lust by indulging them. They can only be quenched through Heaven’s Living Waters:

- *Baptism by water and the Spirit —John 3:5*
- *Daily washing our souls with the Water of the Word —Ephesians 5:26*

What are Consequences of Concupiscence?

ANSWER: The Bible warns of several damaging fruits which result from continued concupiscence. Consider the fruits of pornography, ungodly movies, and alcohol.

CONSEQUENCES OF BEHOLDING PORNOGRAPHY

- Your marriage is damaged by committing adultery—Matthew 5:28
- You promote prostitution by engaging in lasciviousness for hire—2 Peter 2:14

Torah Studies – Statutes #498-502 (continued)

- You sow seeds of destruction to your own flesh—Galatians 6:7
- You bring a curse of increased violent crime in the land—Leviticus 19:29
- You dull your spiritual perceptions, grieving the Holy Spirit—Galatians 5:17

Finally, when you allow evil into your home, your children will be weakened. **What parents allow in moderation, their children excuse in excess.** Thus, *God* calls parents to first be spiritually circumcised (cut away the old fleshly nature), and then the children can also be delivered.

- **Isaiah 49:25** *“But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him (Satan) that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children.”* See also Deuteronomy 30:6.

What Steps can I Take to Conquer Sinful Habits and Overcome Sinful Strongholds?

ANSWER: There are eight steps (once a person has been baptized) to conquering sinful habits and overcoming sinful strongholds.

- **Receive a Biblical anointing over the lustful areas in your life.** (For details on a how to receive a Biblical anointing, see our booklet titled: **Keys to Living Like You’ve Been Saved**, address is on the back of this Bible study guide.)
- **James 5:13-16** *“Is any among you afflicted (are there any areas where the devil is destroying you)? Is any sick (mentally, physically, emotionally, or spiritually sick) among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed...”*
- **Engraft Romans 6 and 8.** (For details on a how to engraft Scripture, see the Christian Living Study Guide 2: **“Keys to Finding True Success in Your Life.”**)
 - **James 1:21** *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted Word, which is able to save your souls.”*
 - **Psalm 119:11** *“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not (have the strength to not) sin against Thee.”*
- **Meditate on the Scripture Day and Night.** To meditate, put the Scripture in the first person (put your name, or “I” in the verses). As you meditate on Romans 6 and 8, these passages will become part of your desires, thinking, and feelings. As you do, the promised fruit of these verses will become yours:
 - **Romans 6:4** *“...Sin shall not have dominion over you...”*
- **Think of yourself as Dead to the Attraction of the Sin.** A dead person cannot lust after a woman. If you were literally dead, your eyes and ears would not respond to a temptation at all. A dead man does not follow a scantily clad woman with his eyes. There is no flirtation coming from a dead man. Nor would sensual images of the woman be in the mind of the corpse. This is how God wants you to be to sin, spiritually.
 - **Romans 6:11-12** *“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God... Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.”*
- **Make no Provision for Sinful Habits.** Remove any items of temptation from your home. Choose not to go to locations where you are certain to be tempted. For example, an alcoholic cannot keep liquor in the house...

Torah Studies – Statutes #498-502 (continued)

...Nor should he go to the bar with his old drinking buddies, with the plan to just sip a 7-Up! We cannot hope to have victory over sin, while we are still making such provisions for the “flesh” to thrive.

- **Romans 13:14** “*But put ye on Yahshua Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*”

For the committed Christian, the focus will not be on how close we can come to the line without crossing from “righteousness” into worldliness, rather we will focus on how close we can get to our Saviour.

Moral Purity

Right Focus

How close can I get to Christ?

Wrong Focus

I'm still on the good side... But, how close can I get to the world and still be "okay?"

Reprobation

Compare the Law of Sin to the Law of Gravity. The idea of overcoming sin seems very difficult, maybe even impossible, when we consider our carnal nature. Paul described the condition of warring between the Law of Sin and the Law of God in Romans 7.

Romans 7:21-25 “*I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the Law of the Lord after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Yahshua Christ our Sovereign. So then with the mind I myself serve the Law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*”

But it is wrong thinking to believe that the law of sin cannot be overcome. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, man seemed fixated on the desire to fly. There were hot air balloons, airships and flying machines of various sizes and shapes. But at first, they all had one thing in common: if they got off the ground at all, they could only remain airborne for a short amount of time and distance.

The law of gravity could not be lastingly conquered until mankind discovered another law: the law of aerodynamics. Man discovered that the previously unconquerable law of gravity could be overcome while abiding by the aerodynamic law.

Like the law of gravity, the law of sin can be overcome by putting out God’s spiritually “aerodynamic wings.” To spread these wings in temptation we only need to use the Heavenly Weapons (see below) until the temptation lifts. Like a bird spreading out his wings, we’ll be able to fly, defeating the law of sin, in the Saviour’s power. (See Romans 8:2-4).

- Rebuke Satan in Christ’s Name & Blood (Jude 1:9, Matt. 16:23, Acts 16:18)
- Pray for Heavenly help over the temptation (Psalm 91:11)
- Quote a Scripture (like Rom. 6 or 8) against the temptation—(2 Peter 1:4)

Torah Studies – Statutes #498-502 (continued)

- Sing songs of praise to God—**Power in the Blood** and *Jesus Loves Me* are excellent warfare songs (1 Chronicles 16:8-10)
- Read Scripture aloud until the temptation passes (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Speak specific praises to God—aloud (Psalm 105:2-3)
- Share your testimony with someone (Revelation 12:11).

(**Keys to Living Like You've Been Saved**, p 29)

Romans 8:2-4 *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Jesus Christ hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Be Accountable to Heaven-given Authorities for Victory. With discretion, tell your spouse, parent, or a trusted prayer partner of the area of moral weakness in your life. Ask them to pray with you daily and give account to them of the progress in overcoming sin.

- **Hebrews 3:13** *“But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”*
- **James 5:16** *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”*

Not only are we strengthened by other's godly exhortation and prayers, we also are humbled and delivered from pride.

- **Proverbs 28:13** *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*

Yield Your Members as Instruments of Righteousness. Considering yourself dead is not enough, if that is all you do. Simply being dead is neutral, without emotion or thought. But, we are to do more than neutralize temptation, we are to move into the realm of the positive with the development of that which is good. Rather than abstaining from sin, EXERCISE your body members toward righteousness. Live with the intent of glorying *God* in all that you do. This is the eighth and last step to conquering sinful habits and overcoming sinful strongholds.

- **1 Corinthians 10:31** *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

Torah Studies – Statutes #503-505

Statute 503: Do not have sexual relations with anyone who is the same gender as you. Homosexuality is an “abomination” in the Eyes of Yahweh.

Statute 504: Do not have any sexual contact with an animal. Bestiality is “confusion” (or a practice associated with spiritual Babylon) and it is “abominable”.

Statute 505: Do your part to prevent your nation, town, or anyone in your sphere of influence from living these wicked lifestyles (bestiality or homosexuality).

Leviticus 18:22-30 “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is **abomination**. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is **confusion**. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these **(J1)** the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: **(J2)** And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. Ye shall therefore keep My Statutes and My Judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled;) That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. **(J3)** For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. 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.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
ABOMINATION	H8441	tô'êbah	something <i>disgusting</i> (morally), that is, (as noun) an <i>abhorrence</i> ; especially <i>idolatry</i> or (concretely) an <i>idol</i> : - abominable (custom, thing), abomination (from the root meaning: “To loathe, detest, abhor”)
CONFUSION	H8397	tebel	<i>mixture</i> , that is, <i>unnatural</i> bestiality: - confusion (from the root meaning: “to mix, confound, mingle...”)

What are the Judgments for committing the sexual abominations of homosexuality and/or bestiality? J1 – the nations (Gentile/heathen) are DEFILED and CAST OUT BEFORE YOU J2 - the LAND is defiled and Yahweh will VISIT (punish/do judgment) iniquity upon it.

Torah Studies – Statutes #503-505 (*continued*)

The **LAND** vomiteth out these wicked **INHABITANTS J3** – the soul who commits these abominations will be **CUT OFF (eternally lost)**.

Cross References: Leviticus 20:13; 1 Kings 14:24; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 1:7 Jeremiah 44:4; Matthew 15:18-20; Mark 7:10-23; 1 Corinthians 3:17