Diversity: Gender and Sexuality in the Body of Christ, Week 3

What are your pre-existing opinions on sexuality and the Bible? What are your initial thoughts on this topic?

Passage #1
Leviticus 18: 21-23 (ESV)

21 You shall not give any of your children to offer them[a] to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. 22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. 23 And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.

What are your initial emotions or reactions after reading this?

Passage #2
Romans 1:26-27 (ESV)

26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27

and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

What are your initial emotions or reactions after reading this?
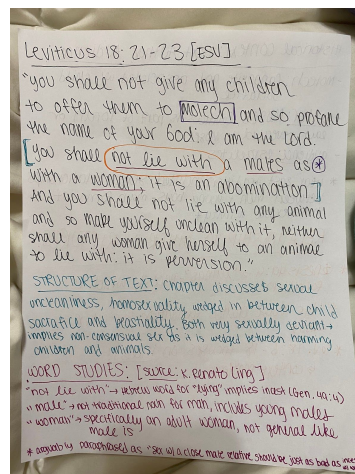
Biblical Exegesis:
1) <u>Pick a passage!</u>
2) <u>Analyze:</u>
   a) Structure of the text (or text around the passage)
   b) Words and their meanings of implications
   c) Historical Context: author, audience, time period, and text
   d) Specific or distinct literary features if there are any (such as metaphor, parables, etc.)
   e) Historical Interpretations: how people have viewed this passage throughout time
   f) Relationships to other scriptures: does this idea come from another part of scripture? Is there theme correlation in any other parts of the Bible? Parallels to be drawn?

   *note: I combined some of these sections, so you will not see every single category accounted for :)

Leviticus Biblical Exegesis:

Historical context: Text, Author, Audience

- Molech: Canaanite god associated w/ child sacrifice

- author: Moses, Leviticus is part of "Torah" or law revealed to Moses

- audience: Israelites

* Near East tradition included sexual relationships between men + young boys - main form of homosexual activity *

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SCRIPTURES:

* Genesis 49:4 → "lyings"= incest, which is forbidden

* this verse creates foundation for other laws *

* Lev. 18:6-18 focuses on incest!
  ↳ context matters!

Romans Biblical Exegesis:

Romans 1:26-27 [ESV]

"{For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions.} For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men that likewise gave up natural relations with women and were [consumed with passion] for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving *in themselves the due penalty for their error."

STRUCTURE OF TEXT: Romans 1 discusses sin and impurity. Discusses specifically idol worship and "dishonorable passions."

WORD STUDIES:
- "natural" → implies self control, social/sexual norms, sex for procreation
- "unnatural" → implies lust, going against males in power during sex + in society, non-procreative sex.

note: not direct translations, rather implications based on context

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Text, Author, Audience
author: Paul
audience: Christians in Rome (Gentiles)

overall, in ancient times men were always in control and women were submissive. sex was for procreation only. →

these actions are shameful because it is based on lust and does not follow social norms and sexual norms of the time. Remember in Leviticus, even heterosexual sexual acts were seen as unclean and needed cleansing.

RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER SCRIPTURE:

* stems from law of torah + jewish people *

↳ cleanliness was a big concept w/in jewish faith, which includes sexual self-control.