

Deuteronomy 22:13-30 **Marriage and Sexual Relationships**

Defamation of Character

13 "If any man takes a wife, and goes in to her, and detests her, 14 and charges her with shameful conduct, and brings a bad name on her, and says, 'I took this woman, and when I came to her I found she was not a virgin,'

Defense by her parents

15 "then the father and mother of the young woman shall take and bring out the evidence of the young woman's virginity to the elders of the city at the gate. 16 And the young woman's father shall say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man as wife, and he detests her; 17 now he has charged her with shameful conduct, saying, "I found your daughter was not a virgin," and yet these are the evidences of my daughter's virginity.' And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.

Punishment for a false charge

18 Then the elders of that city shall take that man and punish him; 19 and they shall fine him one hundred shekels of silver and give them to the father of the young woman, because he has brought a bad name on a virgin of Israel. And she shall be his wife; he cannot divorce her all his days.

Punishment for the guilty

20 But if the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman, 21 then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel, to play the harlot in her father's house; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

Punishment for Adultery with a married woman

22 "If a man is found lying with a woman married to a husband, then both of them shall die--the man that lay with the woman, and the woman; so you shall put away the evil from Israel.

Punishment for Adultery with an engaged woman

23 "If a young woman who is a virgin is betrothed to a husband, and a man finds her in the city and lies with her, 24 then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones, the young woman because she did not cry out in the city, and the man because he humbled his neighbor's wife; so you shall put away the evil from among you.

Punishment for Rape of an engaged woman

25 "But if a man finds a betrothed young woman in the countryside, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lay with her shall die. 26 But you shall do nothing to the young woman; there is in the young woman no sin deserving of death, for just as when a man rises against his neighbor and kills him, even so is this matter. 27 For he found her in the countryside, and the betrothed young woman cried out, but there was no one to save her.

Penalty for Rape of a virgin

28 "If a man finds a young woman who is a virgin, who is not betrothed, and he seizes her and lies with her, and they are found out, 29 then the man who lay with her shall give to the young woman's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall be his wife because he has humbled her; he shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days.

A man and his father's wife

30 "A man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's bed. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Defamation of Character [Deuteronomy 22:13-14]

- ✧ The man has taken a wife, apparently of his own choice.
- ✧ For some reason or another he detests her after the wedding.
- ✧ He charges her with harlotry knowing that the penalty is death by stoning, thus he would not have any responsibility or slander of divorce, but would be free of her for good.
- ✧ Thus she would bear the full responsibility for the results.

Defense by her parents [Deuteronomy 22:15-17]

- ✧ Her parents produce the cloth bearing evidence of her virginity.
- ✧ The evidence is presented to the Elders of the city who sit in judgment on the case.

Punishment for a false charge [Deuteronomy 22:18-19]

- ✧ The evidence appears to validate her virginity.
- ✧ The Elders fine the man 100 shekels of silver and give it to the woman's father.
 - ◇ Because the man has brought a bad name on a virgin of Israel.
- ✧ She shall be his wife.
- ✧ He has forfeited his right to ever divorce her.

This becomes a lot like the law of Jealousy, when the man slanders his wife and causes her to be humbled and brought her good name into disrepute. He is required to spend the rest of his life with the woman who has been publicly humiliated. He has destroyed any hope of her being a loving and supportive wife. And He will have to eat whatever she sets before him. Not to mention all the other aspects of a foul relationship and its repercussions that will come back upon his own head. He has been proven publicly to be a liar and his own reputation is publicly defamed. [Numbers 5:11-31, Deuteronomy 22:13-19]

Punishment for the guilty [Deuteronomy 22:20-21]

- ✧ However, if the charge is true:
 - ✧ The woman is brought out and stoned to death at the door of her father's house.
 - ◇ This public execution will reflect on the name of her father as well as her own name.
 - ◇ Because she played the harlot in her father's house.
 - ◇ She did a disgraceful thing in Israel.
- ✧ And it will serve as a deterrent for others who might tend to follow her example.
- ✧ So you shall put away the evil from among you.

This was a major failure for Israel and for the nations that God destroyed before them when He brought Israel into the promised land, and it was one of the causes for the defilement of the land by its inhabitants. [Exodus 34:12-16, Leviticus 17:7, 18:24-30, 19:29, 21:9, Numbers 15:39, 25:1, Deuteronomy 22:21]

Punishment for Adultery with a married woman [Deuteronomy 22:22, Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:20, 20:10, Deuteronomy 5:18]

- ✧ Both of them shall die.
- ✧ So you will put away the evil from Israel.

Punishment for Adultery with an engaged woman [Deuteronomy 22:23-24, Leviticus 19:20-22]

- ✧ Death by stoning to both the man and the woman.

- ✧ The woman, because she did not cry out and was thereby consenting to the adultery.
- ✧ The man, because he humbled his neighbor's wife.
- ✧ Obviously the woman is viewed in Scripture as being a wife at the time they are engaged.
- ✧ So you shall put away the evil from among you.

Punishment for Rape of an engaged woman [Deuteronomy 22:25-27]

- ✧ The man only shall die because of his sin.
 - ✧ The sin is equal to murder.
- ✧ The woman shall not die, because she cried out but no one was there to help her.

Penalty for Rape of a virgin [Deuteronomy 22:28-29]

- ✧ The man is fined 50 shekels of silver and gives it to her father.
- ✧ She shall be his wife.
 - ✧ Because he humbled her.
- ✧ He shall not be permitted to divorce her all his days.
 - ✧ Thus he suffers the consequences if anything goes wrong between them.

A man and his father's wife [Deuteronomy 22:30, Leviticus 18:8, 20:11]

- ✧ A man shall not take his father's wife, nor uncover his father's bed
 - ✧ A thing that was condoned by the Corinthian Church and addressed by Paul with disciplinary action to be taken. [1 Corinthians 5:1-8]