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CLOBBER

with Colby Martin



AN EXPLORATION OF THE
CLOBBER PASSAGES

OH HEY THERE!

Welcome to my
UnClobbering Leviticus
Mini-Course.



As we go through this course together, I hope you'll discover **liberation** from any and all narratives you've ever heard or been told about how the Bible justifies an anti-LGBTQ theology.

That is just **plain wrong**, and I'm excited to show you why.

In this course we'll be digging in to two **ancient Jewish laws** (both found in the book of Leviticus) that *seem* to indicate the Israelites had a strict "No Gay Sex" policy. If you've ever heard the term "homosexuality is an **abomination**," it's because of these two passages. But as we'll see, that translation (*abomination*) is, well, an abomination in itself.

Plus, don't forget that in addition to each session being taught by me, on video, you can also **download the mp3 file** for each session if you want to listen while folding laundry or going hiking.

Thank you for entrusting me for this part of your journey.

I pray for you **peace, courage, and love** along the way.

Sincerely,

Colby Martin

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME



THE BIBLE and HOMOSEXUALITY

Rethinking Our Misuse



A Bit About Me and Why I Do This UnClobber Work

A Bit of Background

- I was born/raised conservative Baptist. Grew up in (and trained for) evangelical churches. Went in to ministry as a pastor in conservative, evangelical spaces.
 - *Shortly after college I began asking questions and interrogating my faith heritage*
 - *This led to a shift in theological positions—including LGBTQ affirmation*
- In 2011 I was fired from my church in AZ because my theology shifted
 - *Resulting in my work with UnClobber; published in 2016*

What is UnClobber?

- UnClobber is the process of removing the damaging power from the _____
 - *The Clobber Passages are the six sections in the Bible that have historically been used to justify discrimination against those who identify gay/lesbian/bisexual*
- When read in their _____ and _____ context, and understood against the larger backdrop of the witness of Scripture, the clobber passages do not present a God who:
 - *is anti-LGBTQ,*
 - *who sees homosexuality as wrong or disordered, or*
 - *who opposes same-sex relationships/marriage*

Why Did I Write UnClobber and Why Do This Work?

- The church is not exempt from _____, and boy have we!
 - *The traditional interpretation of these passages leads to shame, loneliness, fear, and death*
 - *We need theology that leads to life, and freedom, and love!*
- Surprisingly few resources—especially from my demographic & perspective
 - *This is one way I can steward my _____ (Luke 18 blind man healing)*

UNCLOBBERING



LEVITICUS 18 & 20

A New Way to be Human

UN
CLOBBER

Leviticus 18 & 20: A New Way to Be Human

*“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an **abomination**.” -Leviticus 18:22*

Session 1: Understanding the term “Abomination”

- The Hebrew word translated as *abomination*: _____
 - Synonyms for “abomination” (in English) are: _____, _____, _____
 - *all words that don’t convey what **toevah** means!*
- *Toevah*: noun, used to name what state you’ll be in if you commit certain actions
 - *The actions in question? _____*
 - *Potential synonyms for toevah: unclean, tainted, disgraced*
- Linking *toevah* to *abomination* has led to _____
- Three Observations about *toevah*
 - 1st: *Toevah* is _____ by nature
 - *E.g, Moses asking Pharaoh to worship (which is good!) outside of Egypt because it would’ve been toevah to the Egyptians*
 - *E.g, shepherds were considered toevah to Egyptians*
 - 2nd: *Toevah* does not imply something is inherently _____
 - *Some foods were considered toevah. Not okay for Israelites, but okay for foreigners.*
 - *toevah was not about _____ but about _____*
 - 3rd: *Toevah* was used to describe _____
 - *Cross dressing, mixing different seeds in the ground, combining fabrics*
- Bottom line with *toevah*
 - *Things were considered toevah if they violated _____ and rendered Israel indistinguishable from the Egyptians and the Canaanites*

Session 2: Broader Context of Leviticus

- At this point in Israel's history, they were a newly liberated people group.
 - *Freed from slavery in _____ and heading toward _____*
- Book of Leviticus was a collection of commands and laws compiled for the _____, the priestly tribe
 - *Intended to guide the Israelite people in to a new way of being humans*
 - *how to function religiously toward God, and how to function toward one another*
 - *The clobber passages show up in the third section of Leviticus, the Holiness Code*

Session 3: Broader Context of Clobber Passage in Leviticus 18

- Do Things _____! aka, be holy... aka, be set apart
 - *1 The LORD said to Moses, 2 Speak to the Israelites and say to them: I am the LORD your God. 3 You must not do things like they are done in the land of Egypt, where you used to live. And you must not do things like they are done in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. You must not follow the practices of those places. 4 No, my regulations and my rules are the ones you must keep by following them: I am the LORD your God*
- Leviticus 18:22
 - *22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is toevah (an abomination).*
- Leviticus 20:13
 - *13 If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed toevah (an abomination); they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them.*
- Leviticus 18 is about Restoring the sacredness of _____; aka, **no incest!**
 - No sex with: blood relative (6), mother (7), step mom (8), sister or half sister (9), granddaughter (10), step sister (11), aunt... on either side (12 & 13), aunt by marriage (14), daughter in law (15), sister in law (16), no group sex with a woman and her daughter or her granddaughter (17), don't add your wife's sister as another wife while she's still alive (18), no sex with a woman while she's menstruating (19), no sex with another married woman (20), don't sacrifice your children to Molech (21), no sex with a man as with a woman (22), no sex with animals (23).
 - *24 "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean... 30 So keep my charge never to practice any of these toevah (abominable) customs that were practiced before you... (ESV)*

Session 4: Four Key Observations about Translation

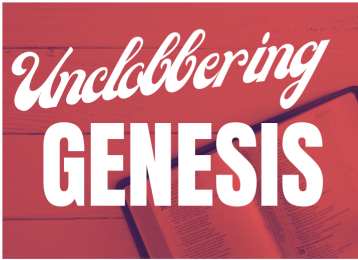
For a verse that is supposedly “crystal clear,” there sure are some serious curiosities

- #1) Odd **Juxtaposition** of Nouns
 - Hebrew has different nouns for general gender (male/female) and specific person (man/woman... also, husband/wife)
 - This verse says, “a _____ shall not lay with a _____ as with a _____
 - Indicating perhaps a specific contextualized situation (remember the family!)
- #2) Superfluous **Specification**
 - If the goal is just to outlaw all homosexual acts, then why the second half of verse?
 - Jewish Exegetical Principle: If a _____ is followed by a _____, then only what is _____ applies.
- #3) “**As With a Woman**” Really?
 - Hebrew word here is mishkevey, only used one other place. Hard to interpret
 - literally means, “the layings of a woman,” or “the beds of a wife.”
 - There is not actually the preposition for _____ in the Hebrew
- #4) It’s **Lady’s Night**, Until Further Notice
 - There is no words of condemnation for _____

Session 5: UnClobbering Leviticus 18 & 20

- Israel was called by God to _____ to the world the character of YWHW
 - Called to be different/holy/set apart
 - Leviticus regulated how their cultic and interpersonal life should function
 - If something violated the cultural boundaries, it would be identified toevah
- Whatever particular sex-act the Levites _____ in these clobber passages was something practiced in Egypt and Canaan, and Israel was called to abstain
 - But this cannot be a word against an orientation
 - Nor is it a blanket condemnation against any and all same sex sex acts or relationships

Need to **UnClobber** the Rest of the **Bible**?
Get another **Mini-Course** today.



For far too long people have believed that God **destroyed** the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because they practiced **homosexuality**.

In this course, we **revisit Genesis 19** and discover why this passage has **nothing to say** about the topic at hand!

[LEARN MORE](#)



When Paul wrote about certain sexual activity being “unnatural,” he was not saying what you think. In fact, we’ve **missed the whole point** of Romans 1 (let alone the clobber passage in question).

In this course, we explore it all. It’s **fascinating** and **freeing**!

[LEARN MORE](#)



When people Google, “**is homosexuality a sin?**” they usually wind up at 1 Corinthians 6:9. But friends, they shouldn’t. Because we’ve royally **mucked** up this **passage**.

Get this course and find out how **bad** we’ve missed it.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Or, get the
UnClobber Suite!

Receive all the other mini-courses,
PLUS: a Bonus Course on Eunuchs
(available only in the Suite).

[LEARN MORE](#)



WHAT'S NEXT?

If you're ready to keep exploring what **faith** can look like, now that you've been **UnClobbered**, check out ***THE SHIFT: Surviving and Thriving after Moving from Conservative to Progressive Christianity***

"feels real and true"

-Jen Hatmaker

AVAILABLE NOW!



"a heartfelt guide"

-Glennon Doyle



"so much wisdom and encouragement"

-Brian McLaren

"welcome words for alternatives to conservative Christianity"

-Publisher's Weekly

[LEARN MORE](#)

[BUY ON AMAZON](#)