

The definition for the phrase laying, or lying, with a woman or man comes from the Old Testament. The context in all references considered together makes it clear that the phrase “lying with” or “laying with” is a reference to sexual relations. Note the following verses:

⁷ And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard it: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob’s daughter; which thing ought not to be done. *Genesis 34:7*

¹⁷ Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him. ¹⁸ But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves. *Numbers 31:17-18*

³⁵ And thirty and two thousand persons in all, of women that had not known man by lying with him. *Numbers 31:35*

²² If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel. *Deuteronomy 22:22*

¹² And they found among the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead four hundred young virgins, that had known no man by lying with any male: and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan. *Judges 21:12*

The companion phrase “lie with” occurs 28 times in the Old Testament and I believe that you will find that all refer to sexual relationships. They are located in: *Genesis 19:32, Genesis 19:34, Genesis 30:15, Genesis 39:7, Genesis 39:12, Genesis 39:14, Genesis 47:30, Exodus 22:16, Leviticus 15:18, Leviticus 15:24, Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 18:23, Leviticus 20:12, Leviticus 20:13, Leviticus 20:15, Leviticus 20:18, Leviticus 20:20, Numbers 5:13, Deuteronomy 22:23, Deuteronomy 22:25, Deuteronomy 22:28, Deuteronomy 28:30, 2 Samuel 11:11, 2 Samuel 12:11, 2 Samuel 13:11, Ezekiel 32:27, Ezekiel 32:28, and Ezekiel 32:29.*

The Lord Jesus Christ set the standard to its highest level when he said in *Matthew 5:27-28*:

²⁷ Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. *Matthew 5:27-28*

The Holy Ghost, through the apostle Paul, addressed the issue of touching in *1 Corinthians 7:1-2* when he stated:

¹ Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. ² Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. *1 Corinthians 7:1-2*