

The God Who Loves You, Warns You **Romans 1:18-32**

Romans 1 is sometimes known as that chapter about homosexuality. There is mention of that but be careful here. Romans 1 is not a complete package of the Biblical instruction on sexuality. It is a passage of Scripture that contains some teaching on sexuality, but it does not contain all that the Bible says about sexuality and identity.

Paul is at the very beginning of presenting his case for the necessity of Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. In this letter, Paul will argue that everyone needs Jesus. Those who haven't heard. Those who have heard. Those who are religious. Those who are not religious. Those who are moral. Everyone.

In Romans 1, we come to understand that God exists, and we are accountable to Him.

You may have noticed a pattern – three great deliverances.

V24 - God gave them over to sexual impurity for the degrading or dishonoring of their bodies.

This implies that there can be sexual activity that God considers to be pure rather than impure.

V26 – God gave them over to shameful lusts (dishonorable passions).

This implies that there can be passions that God considers to be honorable - dishonorable.

V28 – God gave them over to a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done.

This implies that there can be a mind that is not depraved, or corrupted
And it's possible to do what ought to be done.

To be clear: God is not against homosexuals. God is not against people who land in any of our categories. God is for people and He wants lost people to be saved and saved people to be sanctified.

There is good news in the Book of Romans. Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the divine enablement we need to NOT sin any longer. ***We're going to learn that Grace is not just pardon, it is power.***

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Read the passage in Romans 1:18-32.

What thoughts come to your mind as you read this passage?

What does this Scripture say about God?

What does this Scripture say about people?

2. What are some ways God has made Himself known to you?

3. What are some ways God has kept you accountable to Him?

4. What does it mean for Christians to ***lose their distinctiveness*** from those who don't know of their accountability before God and live in whatever manner they choose? How would this nullify a Christian's witness to the reality of God in his or her life?

5. Read 1 Cor 6:9-11.

Notice the phrase in verse 11: ***“And that's what some of you were.”***

Maybe your story is nowhere near as dramatic as indicated in the list of things that these people once were. Has God changed your life in a specific way? Is there something you used to embrace that is no longer a part of your life?

Romans Scripture Memory

(As selected by Pastor Karl – you may want to choose your own memory verses.)

Romans 1:16 - I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Romans 2:2 - Now we know that God's judgment ... is based on truth.

Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 4:25 - He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:7 - What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed, I would not have known what sin was except through the law.

Romans 8:1 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

Romans 9:16 – [Salvation] does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

Romans 10:13 – Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 11:11 – Salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

Romans 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 13:10 - Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 14:8 - If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 15:7 - Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 16:27 - to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ!