

## **When God Gives Up (*Part 2*)** ***Romans 1:24-32***

***Sermon-in-a-Sentence:*** When individuals or a society persist in rejecting God and suppressing the truth of His Word, God allows them to indulge their evil desires without restraint and then suffer the inevitable consequences of their sin.

The rejection of God and His truth results in an downward spiral of the individual and the society that ends in total moral depravity and spiritual death. God abandons man to his sins; sin and its terrible consequences become the judgment of God. He does this that people might come to their senses, repent of their sin and cry out to Him for forgiveness, cleansing and empowerment to overcome sin in their lives.

**I. The Reality of God's Wrath (1:18a)** – God's wrath is a present reality for those who are rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

**II. The Recipients of God's Wrath (1:18b)** – God is pouring out His wrath on those who refuse to submit to His truth and who pursue a lifestyle of wickedness and sin.

**III. The Reason for God's Wrath (1:18c)** – God is pouring out His wrath on those who deliberately and systematically seek to remove Him from every aspect of their lives and society.

**IV. The Reasonableness of God's Wrath (1:19-20)** – God's wrath is reasonable and Man is without excuse because he has willfully rejected the clear and understandable revelation of God's existence, power and nature.

**1:21-23** – Man's rejection of God and His truth leads invariably to spiritual blindness and moral depravity. When Man rejects the true God of the Bible, the Creator of the universe, he creates false gods made in his own likeness and the image of created beings.

**V. The Revelation of God's Wrath (1:24-32)**

**...God gave them up / over...**

**A. To sexual impurity resulting in degradation and idolatry (1:24-25)**

When people reject God and His truth, He allows them to indulge the "sinful desires of their hearts" which manifest themselves in sexual impurity.

"The word *impurity* refers to all sexual activities that are condemned by God. Physical intimacy between one man and one woman in marriage is the only sexual relationship that has divine approval (Gen. 2:24, Matt. 19:4-6)." (*Swindoll, Coming to Terms, p. 18*)

Our bodies were designed by God for sexual intimacy within the confines of marriage and He intended it to be a beautiful thing.

Sex and human sexuality are wonderful gifts from God!

Genesis 1:26-27 – Man, male and female together, is the image of God.

That's why sexual sins, and especially homosexuality, are such an abomination to God—it is an attack on the image of God; it destroys the image of God as He originally designed it. God's original design was *two genders*, male and female.

Human sexuality and gender are expressions and manifestations of the image of God. Therefore, the perversion and abuse of human sexuality and gender are direct attacks on the image of God.

God's original design for marriage was and is one man and one woman. He is the Creator of sex, human sexuality and gender identity and He intended it to be "very good" and it is when we follow His design! (Gen. 2:31)

But when we rebel against His design, and give in to temptation and follow the "sinful desires of our hearts" (Rom. 1:24), there are terrible, terrible consequences!

God designed the woman to be a coequal companion for the man, to perfectly complete and complement him. (Genesis 2:18ff)

Complement = "something that completes, makes up a whole, or brings to perfection." (*The American Heritage Dictionary*) Like a jigsaw puzzle—the pieces are alike but different; they perfectly complement one another.

The woman supplied what was lacking in the man and vice-versa. And that complementation is not found anywhere else!

Genesis 2:23-24 – "i.e., one unit (an [inseparable] union of man and woman, consummated in sexual intercourse)...It is also important to observe that God created only one Eve for Adam, not several Eves or another Adam. This points to heterosexual monogamy as the divine pattern for marriage that God established at creation." (*ESV Study Bible, p. 54*)

When Man rejects God and His truth, it results in sexual perversion and spiritual idolatry.

The lie is the lie of false gods, gods of man's own creation, man becoming his own god, characterized by everything that is contrary to the character and nature of the one true God of the Bible, false gods that are characterized by sinful desires, sexual impurity and unimaginable perversions of the vilest sort.

### **How should we respond? How can we become a part of the solution?**

1. We can become acquiescent – throw up our hands in despair, wave the white flag and give up. Give in and give up. But if we do, we will never change anything, least of all ourselves. We just allow human depravity to overtake and consume us.
2. We can become anxious – we can fret and stew and become so anxious about all the sin and depravity that we see in and around us that we just crawl into a hole and hope it all goes away.
3. We can become available – we can submit ourselves to God, become soldiers in His army, to be used by Him to fight against all the evil that we see in our world. This response requires at least four things:
  - a. Regular prayer
  - b. Personal pursuit of holiness
  - c. Evangelistic outreach
  - d. Active involvement in public affairs