

HOMOSEXUALITY

Why it matters?

Romans
1:23-28

Big Idea: Sexual disorder points to a greater disorder of worship

1.) God established **MARRIAGE** to be an image of the Gospel.

- Marriage was intended by God to be an image of the relationship between Christ and the church (Genesis 2:24, Ephesians 5:31-32).
- Just as Christ and His church become one body, so husband and wife become one flesh (2 Corinthians 11:2).

2.) God designed sex to be an image of **WORSHIP**

- There is a close biblical parallel between sexual intimacy in marriage and worship among God's people.
- Because sex within marriage is an image of authentic worship in the church, sex in any other context images forth idolatry (1 Corinthians 6:15-16).
- Sex outside of the marriage of one man and one woman is not just a bad idea; it is an indirect **ATTACK** on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - To forfeit biblical sexual ethics is, in a true spiritual sense, to forfeit the pure and exclusive worship of the one true God.
 - Conversely, to stand for traditional marriage and sexual purity therein is to stand for the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:18-28

3.) Homosexuality depicts rampant, self-absorbed **IDOLATRY**

-- **Three times in this passage Paul repeats a three-stage sequence of exchange, effect, and evidence.**

-- Step 1 – The Exchange: Human beings exchange God for what God has made, preferring the creature over the Creator.

-- Step 2 – The Effect: God gives us over to what we prefer.

-- Step 3 – The Evidence: The horrendous exchange of God for man is imaged forth in the exchange of sexual purity for homosexuality.

-- **Sequence #1 (v. 23-24)**

-- The Exchange (23); The Effect (24a); The Evidence (24b)

-- The sexual disordering of the human race is God's **JUDGEMENT** for man's act of exchanging Him for His Creation.

-- **Sequence #2 (v. 25-27)**

-- The Exchange (25); The Effect (26a); The Evidence (26b-27)

-- Sexual impurity on the whole—and homosexuality most specifically—is the physical sin that comes as evidence of the greater spiritual sin of rejecting **GOD**

-- **v. 28 – Sequence #3**

-- The Exchange (28a); The Effect (28b); The Evidence (28c)

-- To promote or engage in homosexuality is to dishonor the body and do what ought not be done.

Conclusions

- 1.) The primary problem is not homosexuality, but **IDOLATRY**
- 2.) Sexual confusion and disorder, seen most vividly in homosexuality (though not only there), is the judgment of God upon the human race because we have exchanged His glory for other things.
- 3.) Paul focuses on homosexuality in these verses is because it is an extraordinarily vivid **DRAMATIZATION** of failed worship and human rebellion against God.

- Human sexuality in the context of marriage is meant by God to portray pure worship of God in the church.
- God has decreed that our disordered worship should be portrayed in disordered sexual relations among people.
- Homosexuality is a judgment from God meant to awaken us to our rampant rejection of Him.

Application

- Our stance against homosexuality is about the very glory of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a recognition of the bigger issue behind homosexuality—self-absorbed rejection of God.
- Don't miss God's message! Recognize the **WARNING** God is graciously giving us and turn to Him in repentance and faith!