



-- Rightly discussing the issue of homosexuality requires maintaining a proper Biblical balance between conviction and **COMPASSION**

Big Idea: Homosexuality is a warning about worship that comes as a herald to hope.

Recap Part 2 – Romans 1:23-28

-- Romans 1:23-28 describes the inglorious **EXCHANGE** that is imaged forth by homosexuality (Part 2).

- 1.) The primary problem is not homosexuality, but idolatry.
 - 2.) Sexual disorder is the judgment of God upon the human race because we have exchanged His glory for lesser 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.
- Thus, homosexuality is sent by God as a judgment meant to serve as a glaring **WARNING** that we have exchanged proper worship of Him for self-absorbed idolatry.
- God's purpose through homosexuality is not just to awaken us to our self-absorbed idolatry, but also to turn our hearts to the one true hope that is available only in Christ.

-- **The Sequence of HOPE Revealed in Fallen Creation**

- 1.) Man exchanges God for lesser things (mostly himself).
- 2.) Every disorder we experience on earth comes as a result of this exchange and as an image of our disordered worship.
- 3.) This vivid drama of disorder and decay are meant by God to turn our hearts away from the hopelessness of idolatry and toward the singular hope of redemption in Christ.

Romans 8:18-25

- v. 18 – No matter what we encounter in this life, we are called to keep our focus on the next.
- v. 19 – We should focus upon our future in Christ because all of Creation is eagerly awaiting and pointing to redemption in Him.
- v. 20 – All Creation eagerly awaits redemption because it has been subjected to **FUTILITY** by God.
 - The marring of Creation is called “futility,” and this futility came as a consequence of sin.
 - There is God-ordained purpose for the disorder and decay of Creation.
- v. 21 – God’s purpose in subjecting Creation to futility is to magnify the hope of **REDEMPTION**
- v. 22-23 – All of Creation longs to be redeemed to an undefiled state.
 - The disasters, destruction, and disorder we experience in this life are **BIRTHING PAINS** of a new and glorious hope.
 - Our groaning for something better indicates the reality of hope.
- v. 24-25 – The futility of Creation urges us to stop placing our hope in the world (what we see) and to place our hope in Christ (what we do not see).

What is the point? There is hope!

- Everyone is desperate for hope, but homosexuality (like all disorder and decay) is a vivid picture of the futility of looking for it in the world.
- Disorder in the world, such as homosexuality, is intended by God to turn our hearts to Him as our only hope.
- Our primary goal in addressing this issue should be appealing to the **HOPE** of the Gospel.