

“Homosexuality – Part 1”

Based on Romans 1:18-32

June 25, 2000 ► Sunday at 8:15 & 10:45

Introduction: Today’s topic is homosexuality. *Is it good or evil, right or wrong, moral or immoral, acceptable or detestable to God?* More and more are saying: “It is good!” Schools are teaching that it is an acceptable alternative lifestyle. Our government recently voted to offer people who practice homosexuality special protection. However, most shocking is the fact that many CHURCHES – *institutions that have a primary responsibility to side with and speak for God* – support homosexuality! Such churches deny the Bible to be God’s Word, are leading their members astray, and will come under God’s eternal wrath! Homosexuality is sometimes thought to refer only to men; however, the dictionary defines the term with these words: It’s a “sexual desire or behavior directed toward a person or persons of one’s own sex.”¹ In other words, the term applies both to males and females.

In order to help you understand God’s position on the topic, we will begin to look at Romans 1:18-32. As we proceed, both this week and next week, you will see the way in which people get themselves into immorality and the sinfulness of homosexuality.

1. God has made the truth known:

- a. (18) **“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.”**
 - i. God has made two revelations to us. The one not mentioned here is His righteousness that He makes available to all people through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God is constantly revealing this first revelation through His Word. *This first revelation is good news!* The second revelation, as contained in our text, has been placed within all people by God – even those who have never actually heard about right and wrong already have a sense of what is right and wrong. *This second revelation is bad news!* Paul describes it as God’s wrath which is revealed “against all

¹The Random House College Dictionary, Revised Edition (New York: Random House Inc.,1988), 635.

the godlessness and wickedness of men.” In other words, God is holy; therefore, He is constantly in opposition to all godlessness and wickedness, and He is constantly making that known to all people. Going further, those who practice such things are responsible for calling God’s wrath down upon themselves. But why? God has told everyone what is right; therefore, those who do wrong – *without repentance* – are insulting God, which moves Him to answer with His secondary will which is His judgment and wrath.

- ii. *What is it that the godless and wicked do? They “suppress the truth by their wickedness.” What does that mean? The truth left to do its work will transform hearts and lives; therefore, those who are godless and wicked do not merely hear the truth and but continue to do evil. Instead, they actively suppress the truth by turning a deaf ear, rushing into sin, making up arguments against the truth, or simply denying the truth. Do you see how the outcome must be one way or the other? Either truth will win and evil will be cast out OR evil will win and truth will be suppressed.*
- b. (19) **“Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.”** We know God has made the truth known because wicked people must suppress it. Furthermore, the truth is not cloudy or confused. As the Bible says, it has been made “plain to them.” Going even further, who is the messenger? *It is the almighty God!* He certainly does what He promises; therefore, we can be certain that He continues to clearly make the truth known.
- c. (20) **“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”** In that verse, Paul immediately explains WHEN God began to make the truth known and HOW God makes the truth known. When? ...since the creation of the world and How? ...through what has been made. In other words, God uses the visible things of His creation to reveal to people the truth that is invisible. *What would happen to the human race if all people were homosexuals? Think about animals, who operate on instinct; are they homosexuals? Is*

homosexuality in direct opposition to what is good, right, and natural? The answers are obvious! Therefore, because of what God continues to make known AND because He has made it known to all, all who suppress the truth “are without excuse.” As that is true today, so it will be true on judgment day when all who have suppressed the truth will be cast into the lake of fire.

2. What many have done with the truth of God:

- a. *They failed to glorify Him and give Him thanks.* Why is that burden put on the people? Because God has made the truth plain, which should cause people to glorify God and give Him thanks.
 - i. *What does it mean to glorify God?* To think about: *who* He is and *what* He has done; then to act accordingly by worshiping Him, honoring Him, praising Him, and serving Him.
 - ii. *What does it mean to thank God?* To think of ourselves: *who* God has made us to be, *what* He has done for us, and *what* He has given us; then to act accordingly by heartily giving Him thanks with our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- b. Therefore, (21) **“their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”** When we rightly think about God and ourselves, and rightly respond by glorifying Him and giving Him thanks, then we are wise and in the light; however, for others, the opposite is true. *What about you?* Do you dwell on who God is and how great He is, then glorify Him? Do you give Him thanks for all you are and all you have? Do you rightly honor Him with your worship, giving, prayers, and work?
- c. (22) **Apparently wise, in reality foolish!** To be foolish and to know it is one matter. Claiming to be wise and yet really being a fool, *that’s much worse!* However, many fall into that category today. In fact, the ungodly tend to boast about their wisdom, their scientific learning, and their power to reason; however, without a proper view of God and a proper fear of God, they have become fools.
- d. *The way of fools.* (23) **They “exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.”** Look at the choices,

IMMORTAL in connection with God versus MORTAL in connection with the things of the world; however, being fools, they chose the mortal over the immortal. Think about it this way: Though it's not right, it's one matter to worship something that reminds us of God, it's even lower to worship an actual person or animal; however, it's even lower yet to worship things made to look like man or animals. What great foolishness and yet how many people place people and animals and material objects above the one, true, living, and almighty God? What has taken place since creation? In the beginning, God made man in His divine image; however, today, man seeks to make God in his sinful image. By God's grace, may we always avoid such things and follow these words of God: "Be holy, because I am holy."²

Conclusion: Next week we will continue with this text. Here's a brief preview: Notice how verses 24, 26, and 28 all declare the fact that "God gave them over." In other words, those three statements go on to describe the divine punishment that those people brought upon themselves because of their rejection of God. Please keep this in mind as well when you think about those who do great evil: Those who persist in such things receive more than permission from God to continue; nevertheless, God never causes them to do evil; instead, they do so of their own free will.

Finally, in closing today, let me make this distinction between the sin of homosexuality and other sins. Certainly we have all sinned in various ways! Certainly Christ died to pay the penalty for all sins, even the sin of homosexuality; nevertheless, those who foolishly and arrogantly continue to deny God, His Word, and His ways, and continue in their sins, will be punished without mercy forever and ever! However, for all who are sorry for their sins, seek to turn from them, and trust in Jesus Christ, are forgiven, *even now*, through the life, death, and resurrection of God's only begotten Son! *Amen!*

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²NIV 1 Peter 1:16