

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:26-27

Sermon Title: Salvation for a Homosexual Culture

God hands idolaters over to their passions displaying their depravity in moral perversion to show the need for the gospel as the power of God for salvation. The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, transforming morally perverse lives and cultures by grace.

1) The gospel of Christ exposes homosexual behavior as an unnatural relation and shameful act.

- a) “women exchanged the natural relations for those that are contrary to nature”
- b) “men likewise gave up natural relations with women . . . men committing shameless acts with men”
- c) **Application:**
 - i) The abuse/misuse of the body and sex mirrors the abuse of worship in idolatry.
 - ii) The prohibition of homosexuality is not cultural, but natural.
 - iii) The shamefulness of an act does not arise from society’s disapproval, but from God’s condemnation.
 - iv) The complementary and fruitful relation of Christ and the Church shows the perversion of sexual immorality and shows the hope and pattern for human flourishing under the grace of God.

2) The gospel of Christ exposes homosexual orientation as a dishonorable passion and burning desire.

- a) “dishonorable passions”—bringing dishonor on God’s design and on the soul
- b) “consumed with passion for one another”—animalistic desire; used in Wisdom of Solomon 14:2; 15:5 of idolatrous desire and greed; Wisdom 16:2-3 of Israel’s inordinate craving that led to gorging themselves with quail
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Disordered desire begins with idolatry then bleeds over into other appetites.
 - ii) Sins arise from a sinful heart, therefore the heart must be changed. Sins must be mortified at the root, not merely the fruit.
 - iii) “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” sets people free from “the law of sin and death” (Rom. 8:2). Identity is found in Christ. The fundamental orientation of the Christian’s heart is toward God in Christ, not toward sin (Rom. 6). Therefore, a believer should not construe his identity as one torn between two masters, but reckon himself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:11).

3) The gospel of Christ exposes homosexual suffering as a fitting penalty for deviance.

- a) “receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error”
- b) Temporal judgments such as physical illness, mental dysphoria, and emotional anguish, are warnings to prick the consciences of the elect and foretastes of future judgment for the reprobate.
- c) **Application:**

- i) Qualification: Not all suffering is a direct consequence of some sin. God has various purposes for human suffering. Each is designed for the good of His people and the ultimate glory of His name.
- ii) Deviance from God's good creation order results in misery. This misery is itself a mercy, testifying to the soul that no lasting joy is found in sin. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

4) The gospel of Christ is the hope of salvation for homosexuals and a homosexual culture (1:16; 3:19-31).

- a) Everyone, not only the homosexual, is accountable to God.
- b) Not only a homosexual, but no human being will be justified in God's sight by works of the law.
- c) You must be justified by God's grace as a gift through faith in the faithful Jesus Christ.
- d) Just as God displays human depravity by handing people over to moral perversion, so He displays His righteousness by saving depraved people through the death of His Son.

Doxology: Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in You. (Psalm 33:20-22)