

Romans 1.24-32 Results of Rejection, Abandonment, Wrath,
Homosexuality, Mental Depravity 022b-025
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[Romans 1.24-32 Abandoning & Rendering of Wrath 022b]

So, God has made Himself known to mankind in revelation. Man realizes and understands this, that God is different from the idolatrous gods is the only one, true God, but an unbeliever deceives himself into believing that there is no God. This leaves man responsible, 20. If he accepts the general revelation, God will give him special revelation, but man in general does not respond to that revelation and as a result he is without excuse.

Man then rejects God, not giving glory to Him nor honoring Him as God, 21, and rationalizes, coming up with alternate ideas that replace God. The effect this has on him is reprobation—his heart is hardened, 22. And, since man can't live with the emptiness within him that only the one true God can fill, he finds ways to replace God; it usually takes the form of idolatry, 23. Idolatry can come in the form of greed—something applicable to our culture. Then God responds with wrath in the present tense sense, pouring it out on mankind.

Romans 1.18-32

Reasons for Wrath:

Reject Revelation —>

Rebellious Reasoning —>

Ruinous Religion —>

Righteous Rejection of Mankind by God.

- I. Introduction 1.1-17
- II. Provision of God's Righteousness 1.18-8.39
 - A. Condemnation 1.18-3.20
 - 1. Guilt of Humanity 1.18-32
 - a. Rejection of God 1.18-23
 - b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Impurity 1.24-25
 - a) Abandonment of God 1.24

1.24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

A new paragraph: refers to preceding reasons that man rejects God.

1.24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

First sentence: *God gave them over*. A word study shows us:

Gave Over

- > Term - παραδίδομι (pah-rah-dée-do-mee)
- > Usage - 119 times in the NT
 - betray Jesus - Judas 31%
 - hand over for cross - (19%)
 - deliver believers - (18%)
 - to give up, abandon - (4x)

It is interesting: the word 'give over' is used half the time in relation to Jesus Christ and the crucifixion, His dying on the cross. But the word 'paradídomi' is used of Judas in the sense of betraying Christ or abandoning Him to the authorities; it's a rejection, casting away. It is so used 31% of the 119 times.

Then, another 19%, of Jesus being handed over to the authorities to be crucified. Again, abandoned to be arrested by the authorities. Only four times is it used in the sense of this passage in which it is repeated three times. Same word but it is not in the sense of betrayal, referring to God; it speaks of *God abandoning something*. It is like when the disciples were turned over to the authorities who disliked their preaching of the gospel: 18% of the uses, similar to Christ (19%).

Here: God is turning someone over to something else. There are three uses in this passage. But at any point down the road they go without God, they can still stop and accept God and Christ.

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Impurity 1.24-25
 - a) Abandonment of God 1.24
 - b) Impurity of the Flesh 1.24

1.24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

God, giving them over to impurity, allows the flesh to manifest its full depravity; this can take a lot of forms, depending on the weakness of the individual. Some are inclined in the area of sexual immorality, some to excessive use of things like alcohol, tobacco, etc. Others to excessive greed, even being oppressive to people.

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Impurity 1.24-25
 - a) Abandonment of God 1.24
 - b) Impurity of the Flesh 1.24
 - c) Resulting Dishonoring 1.24

1.24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

Notice the word *lusts*. That is just for the common word for *desires*. All of have desires that are built in that are not evil in themselves; in fact we survive because we have desires to nourish ourselves and to function and survive. There is nothing wrong with that; but the weakness of the flesh takes those desires, perverts them and they become excessive, maybe uncontrollable—although we have volition and can make choices. So, the lusts of their heart go to the very depths of their being as unbelievers; the lusts of their heart drive them into whatever area of weakness they have.

Impurity is those things that defile, destroy—emphasizing here the physical body. God abandons people to various things, such as addictions. Whatever is driving the unbeliever, it will manifest itself in the flesh which is the totality of what we are, our humanity, physical, mental and emotional part of us. *Dishonoring the body* can be the twisting of the mind, emotions or physical aspects. They abandon God and He lets them go into whatever they choose.

We can see examples in children who grow up without discipline or training, complaining about anyone that is trying to teach them something, giving excuses; they never learn that sin has consequences and there has to be accountability. A young person can die from cirrhosis of the liver from alcohol—the ultimate dishonoring of the body.

Addictions

- √ Alcohol
- √ Drugs - opioids
- √ Tobacco
- √ Foods - coffee, Pepsi/Coca Cola
- √ Gambling
- √ Sex - pornography
- √ Shopping - shoplifting
- √ Electronics

All of this goes back to 1.18, *suppressing the truth in unrighteousness*

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Impurity 1.24-25
 - a) Abandonment of God 1.24
 - b) Impurity of the Flesh 1.24
 - c) Resulting Dishonoring 1.24
 - d) Reason of Idolatry 1.25

1.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Paul is returning to 18-23: rationalizing that they can handle or control things. But there are consequences to these things, that's the truth, as is the fact that God is the giver of all good things—exchanged for the lie that these behaviors are safe, but are things that dishonor and destroy the body.

1.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

They worship and serve the creature, having abandoned the creator of all things—all that is left is the creation, the material realm dominates for them. They are servant to, have a devotion to, money or whatever it may be.

1.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Serving the creature *rather than the Creator*. This reminds us of the forces we noted in the prior verses. This is the product when the Creator is rejected; God abandons mankind.

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 - c) Resulting Dishonoring 1.24
 - d) Reason of Idolatry 1.25
 - e) Doxology to Creator 1.25

1.25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

This should be the proper response: *who is blessed forever*. No matter what man does with that revelation, God remains *blessed forever*. It is a kind of contrast: our rejection of Him doesn't change anything, He is immutable, remains blessed and even in this context we can praise and bless Him.

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1) Physical Impurity	1.24-25
2) Moral Degradation	1.26-27

That was the physical ramifications. Now he takes it to a deeper level in terms of the whole morality of mankind and, in the case of abandonment, God abandons people to moral degradation. What Paul portrays here is one of the lowest forms of that moral degradation. It might not seem extreme to us because we have been rather desensitized by our culture, but he is saying that one form it may take is homosexuality.

1.26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

One step further, downward, He gave them over to degrading passions, the strong drives in the sexual area, and the lowest of low, though maybe we have gone beyond that in other areas as well. *For their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.* Lesbianism is not natural, is no part of God's design; in fact it is totally contrary to what God has designed regarding relationships, especially sexual relationships.

God has designed men for women and women for men, and in this context it is a God-given gift, the whole sexual area, but we pervert it and once we have rejected God and exchanged truth for a lie, then it is whatever we can come up with, whatever we are driven towards, whatever we might be inclined towards—inclinations that are not wrong, but it is what we do with them and the outcome from that. In some cases it results in homosexuality. It actually changes the body as well, that is, there are theories that the mind is affected.

In the next verse, he goes on with

1.27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Homosexuality is an *indecent act*. And there are consequences, *the due penalty of their error*. It affects the body, affects people physically, such as all the sexually transmitted diseases that homosexuality

includes. Medically there are a lot of statistics, eg, suicide, much higher numbers in the homosexual/lesbian community than the public in general. The same with transgenderism. The results do not solve their problems. The guilt and other feelings are even worse than what they had prior to the surgeries. The only real break of the pattern is accepting Christ and having a saving relationship with God.

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2) Moral Degradation	1.26-27
3) Mental Depravity	1.28-31

1.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

It starts with a mental, psychological issue. For example, the anorexic *imagine* themselves as being overweight, so they starve themselves. A little boy or girl that thinks he or she should be the other sex can probably be helped so that they outgrow it. Ideas in the head do not mean that they are real in the physical body. A biologist has said that a male is a male *genetically*, and a female is a female genetically. Our culture says the opposite. It is sad that it is not giving them anything to help. The solution is to try to convince them to re-think their situation, not to encourage them to further indulgence in the problem—which is what our culture is doing.

1.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.

There are standards; there are right and wrong; there are absolutes. God has revealed them and now we are going in the opposite direction: *those things which are not proper*.

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 - 2) Moral Degradation 1.26-27
 - 3) Mental Depravity 1.28-31
 - 4) Indictment 1.32

1.32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

They know the ordinance of God—he has built in him a sense of right and wrong in the conscience. Even though they know the ordinance of God—he repeats—those are worthy of death. They have a sense of judgment, of accountability to God. They not only do the same things, but give hearty approval to those who practice them. The culture encourages these things that destroy.

Have we become Sodom yet?

The flesh of a believer is subject to the same problems as the unbeliever! We, as believers, have the old nature as well as the new. We need to continually renew our minds and put on the new nature on a daily basis—be continually responding to the revelation that God has given us.

[Romanos 1.26-27 Homosexual Issue 023]

Homosexuality is such a ‘hot’ topic that churches are burnt down over it. There is great controversy about homosexuality, but when we get to passages that deal with it we have to consider it. There is a Biblical perspective on it that is 180° from the way the world approaches it. I believe that the Biblical approach is the most compassionate of all—and the most realistic, dealing with reality of the whole issue. It was a hot issue in the Roman empire in the first century. Paul was writing to the entire empire—it was a problem world-wide as it is today in our culture.

Paul is developing the solution to evil, the only one God has provided. Otherwise man is under wrath because of all our ungodliness and unrighteousness. Starting in verse 18, we are all suppressors of the truth and therefore under wrath and he gives the reasons: Man has rejected God’s revelation to every single human being which is adequate for condemnation and puts man under His wrath. Then starting in verse 24: how His wrath is seen, how it is manifested. It is not like we see in the OT, eg, the flood that wiped out all humanity except for one family; but it is just as visible as any judgment in the OT or NT.

REVELATION



Realization -	19-20
Responsibility -	20
Rejection -	21
Rationalization -	21
Reprobation -	22
Replacement -	23
Wrath -	24-32

Returning to 1.26 we look at more details:

1.26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

They filled their hearts and minds with a substitute, so God gave them up—letting them go on with their own emotions.

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Impurity 1.24-25
 - 2) Moral Degradation 1.26-27
 - a) God’s Abandonment 1.26
 - b) Female Relations 1.26

1.26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

One way God’s ‘giving them over to *degrading passions*’, is lesbianism. Their whole moral being has no orientation to what is right or wrong to the extent it affects sexual orientation. This is the only passage that deals specifically with lesbianism; other passages would include it in their general approach.

For their women exchanged the natural function. The word for women here is a rare word for women, not one used for someone in a high state, but it can be used for animals, like a ‘female’ cat. Here it is ‘female’ women that exchanged (filling that empty place in a human) the ‘natural’—the word for something with a designer, normal—function. The function is sex which was created by God, He designed it, a beautiful thing in its context. But here it’s about the extreme perversion of it; they changed the natural function for, broadly speaking, homosexuality.

Homosexuality

1. Marriage Biblical Foundation

Marriage

1. Creation Genesis 1.27 *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

From Genesis. Mankind was created in the image of God, male and female. This is in the perfect state, before the fall with Adam and Eve. Homosexuality is against the design of God's creation.

2. God Instituted 2.22 *The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

God instituted marriage before the fall. The purpose of all humanity was to be fruitful and multiply. Female relationships can't multiply. Nor male-male.

3. Roles Distinctions 2.23 *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

Distinction of roles before the Fall. The Fall is not the cause of headship and submission in the relationship. Adam named Eve. God started it in Genesis one when he called certain things...called the light portion *day* and the dark portion *night*. God names; He has inside omniscient knowledge to be able to recognize characteristics. And being built in the image of God, we have the ability to distinguish characteristics as well.

Also, God is sovereign over the universe and He wanted it to be identified with this label; so He gave that responsibility to man. This was the second purpose of mankind: to have dominion over the earth. The roles were there before the fall. Submission...we cannot even talk about it in our culture!

4. Heterosexual 2.23 *The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

Distinctions were there: Woman and Man (not Adam and Steve).

5. Monogamous 2.24 *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

If God had intended man to have two wives, He would have created two. Monogamy. This is reinforced elsewhere.

6. Highest relationship צֹבַח 2.24 *...leave his father...*
The highest relationship. The Hebrew word 'aseb' is *to leave*. The marriage relationship is the highest; all other ties to family have to be broken and if they are not it will do damage to the marriage relationship. There are a lot of problems today because they are dependent on family or emotionally tied to them.

7. Permanence 2.24 This is reinforced later.

8. Unity יָבֵק 2.24 *to cleave, be joined to:* in the image of God. Oneness, completed, male and female, the image is expressed.

9. Transparency עָרוּם 2.25 *And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*

The main reason for the mention of nakedness is for openness and transparency, intimacy, closeness.

These are the Biblical foundation for marriage. Lesbianism—homosexuality--violates every one of those. Contrary to creation, to design, to what God instituted, it ruins the roles—they don't exist anymore. What God created is heterosexual and monogamous. In homosexuality there usually is not permanence; there is no unity or transparency. They exchanged the natural function for the unnatural, contrary to the design, the Biblical concept.

The world's attitude is that this is normal. You can't change it; this is the way they were born.

1.26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural

This is one of the strongest passages condemning homosexuality. Another thing is that the church today tries to harmonize Biblical passages making them say that it is OK, that Paul was unaware of this idea of sexual orientation. Some just disagree with Paul who came from a strict Jewish background. And they might say that these texts are about relationships with children, for example, or he is not talking about

consenting adults. They eliminate the Old Testament, saying ‘Oh, we are not under the Law.’

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Impurity 1.24-25
 - 2) Moral Degradation 1.26-27
 - a) Abandonment of God 1.26
 - b) Female Relations 1.26
 - c) Male Relations 1.27

Then in verse 27 we have the counterpart; if it wasn’t clear enough in verse 26, he says basically the same thing regarding maleness.

1.27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Everything he has said about the female relationships is the same about the males.

1.27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Men abandoned the natural function, that which was by design, intended by God.

1.27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

They burned in their lust or desire toward one another. Again, here is a different word for *man*. It is not the normal word you would find in this context. It is the same idea as the female: a male dog. An intensification and distorting of natural desires that God has put within man.

1.27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

And they commit indecent acts—men with men. Clearly condemned. Here are some of the OT passages:

Bible Passages

1. Sodom & Gomorrah - Genesis 19.5 *and they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them.”*
This was not the only issue there; it was just one of the moral degradation. But it became well-known.
2. Men of Gibeah - Judges 19.22 *While they were celebrating, behold, the men of the city, certain worthless fellows, surrounded the house, pounding the door; and they spoke to the owner of the house, the old man, saying, “Bring out the man who came into your house that we may have relations with him.”*
A man with marital relations problems was talking with his father-in-law and the men of Gibeah arrive wanting *relations with him*. They get the daughter whom they rape viciously and cut into 12 pieces...very ugly scene.
3. Prohibited in Law - Leviticus 18.22 *‘You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination...20.13 ‘If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death.*
It is clearly prohibited in the Law. Is *detestable, abominable*. In the context: the penalty was capital punishment. This was for Israel, but it has moral and spiritual implications as well; the NT makes that clear.
4. Male cult prostitutes - 1Kings 14.24 *There were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.*
It was understood that homosexuality was involved.
So, it is clear in the Old Testament, but it is in the NT as well.

Homosexuality

1. Marriage Biblical Foundation
2. Old Testament
3. New Testament

5. Listed with other sins - 1Corinthians 6.9 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God*

He starts with sexual sins and goes on with others. Watch that covetousness! The word *effeminate* occurs two times in the NT, once as soft robes that kings wear and in this context, probably the more passive one in the homosexual relationship.

6. Contrary to Teaching - 1Timothy 1.8 *But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers 10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,*

It is a clear reference to male-male intercourse. The clearest passage of all is:

7. Under Wrath - Romans 1.26 *For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and.*

Part of the wrath is poured out in these relationships—He lets people go in their relationships to their inclination and desires and it is destructive.

Moral Degradation

- > 1.18 - wrath against...
- > 1.24 - impurity & dishonoring of the body
- > 1.26 - degrading passions that do damage and eventually destroy
 - The suicide rate among homosexuals and lesbians is the highest of virtually any other category of people.
- > 1.26-27 - unnatural: contrary to design, in both verses
- > 1.27 - burned in desire In 1Corinthians 7 it's about a normal, natural burning of desire, what God put in a sexual desire—should get married. Here uses a different word in Romans 1.27. It can't be satisfied; that's why they have multiple partners. Are called *indecent acts*.

Note that there is nothing positive about homosexuality in any of these passages. And there is a penalty:

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c) Male Relations	1.27
d) Resulting Penalty	1.27

1.27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error

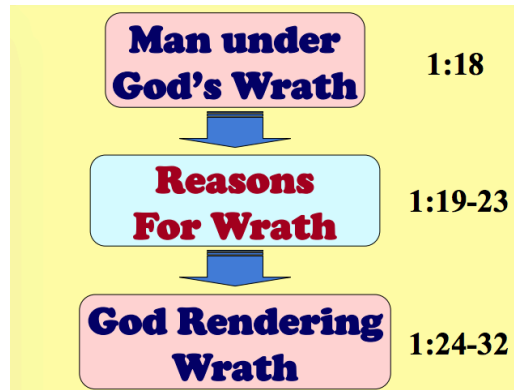
They receive the *due penalty of their error*. It is wrong. God has a design completely the opposite. And, referring to transgenders which are a similar type of issue, there are affects, not only impacting the individual but the family as well, children, for example. So your sin affects others as well and the culture.

Homosexuality

1. Marriage Biblical Foundation
2. Old Testament
3. New Testament
4. Real Compassion
 - > Not allowing people to destroy themselves. We want to help people overcome the consequence, the due penalty of their sin. To condone it or tolerate it is really the opposite of compassion; you are saying 'I am going to let you destroy yourself, kill yourself, let you affect your family... Tolerance of sin is the opposite of compassion.
 - The church makes a mistake when it rejects these people and when it overlooks it and accepts them the way they are. Yes, we accept them, but not the sin.
 - > Help people find deliverance—and there is only deliverance in Christ. Transgenders say that after the complete change they felt no different, felt the same lack of peace as when they first started the process, so there is the only help for them.
 - > Share solution for all evil. And Christ is the only solution for all evil. Only God can take care of an addiction—to any sin.

Have we become Sodom yet? Or passed Sodom? The issue of homosexuality is not different from all other sin!!!

Paul writes to Rome, but it is almost as if he is writing to our culture also. He starts the doctrinal section in 1.18, speaking of the wrath of God and gives the reasons for it in 19-23. The main point is that God reveals Himself to man but man rejects Him and, after a time, God gives them over to their wishes which results in their destroying themselves. Eventually He renders His Wrath. You can see this pattern throughout world history with the cycles of sin in which He intervenes, judges and saves by His grace—all of mankind, nations or individuals.



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1) Physical Dishonoring	1.24-25
2) Moral Degradation	1.26-27
3) Mental Depravity	1.28-32
a) <u>Failure to Acknowledge</u>	1.28

1.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

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1) Physical Dishonoring	1.24-25
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b) <u>Abandonment by God</u>	1.28

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Gave Over

- > Term - παραδίδομι (paradídomi)
- > Usage - 119 times in the NT
 - betray Jesus - Judas 31%
 - hand over for cross - (19%)
 - deliver believers - (18%) to give up, abandon - (4x)

The word 'to give over' is used for betrayal, delivering people over to others, and here God gives people over to the desires of their flesh to manifest its full depravity.

1.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,

Wrath

- > Sin = δοκιμάζω (do-ki-máhd-zo) - did not examine (God)...
22x en NT. 1Cor 11.28 *But a man must examine himself...*
ἐπίγνωσις - (eh-pée-gno-sis) ...for full knowledge

- > Punishment = ἀδόκιμος (ah-dó-kee-mos) - depraved
νοῦν - (noon) - mind

God allows the consequences of not knowing Him fully to be related to sin which leads to being depraved (ἀδόκιμος) or worthless. So the penalty goes along with the sin of not accepting the reality of God. Their depraved mind has been convinced that God does not exist (even though He has revealed Himself to them in their hearts and in nature). And the natural mind cannot detect the things that are spiritual. It is like the hundreds of radio waves around us; we cannot detect them, do not have the receptor for them. So we end up totally insensitive to spiritual things until God illumines us more and we accept Christ—then we can understand.

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a) Failure to Acknowledge	1.28
b) Abandonment by God	1.28
c) <u>Degradation of Life Style</u>	1.28

1.28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,...

Where do thoughts come from?

The Source of Evil Thoughts

Mateo 15.19 “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

A depraved mind results in evil attitudes and actions.

That is what you can see in a culture; you could say that God has given up, for example, the American culture. The only hope is revival of individuals and then massive revival of the culture, a massive turning to Jesus Christ which can result in the turning of individuals who may have an effect on the rest of the culture. In the past God has done this, eg, in Britain, where the culture was transformed. This is the only thing that would reverse the trend of where we are headed right now.

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
 - 1) Physical Dishonoring 1.24-25
 - 2) Moral Degradation 1.26-27
 - 3) Mental Depravity 1.28-32
 - a) Failure to Acknowledge 1.28
 - b) Abandonment by God 1.28
 - c) Degradation of Life Style 1.28
 - d) Description of Degradation 1.29-31

Paul is giving here a long list—the longest in the Bible—of the things that we can see in our culture: neighbors, unbelieving relatives, places of work...destructive behaviors, and the only thing that will help is not ‘improving’ situations of people, but *conversion* where God transforms the heart so that one has new thoughts. Then the process of renewing our minds begins and we can not only see reality but live out what God desires.

1.29 ... being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;...

A description of the degradation; it is quite explicit, obvious around us.

1.29 ... being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;...

We can break it down by dividing into three parts. They are not really categories. But grammatically there are three groups. The first starts with a participle: *being filled*...then the nouns in the dative case.

Then the next ones are *full of* plus nouns in the genitive. These two groups list what is in the person.

Then there are the words *they are* followed by 12 nouns in the accusative case.

Participle + Dative (participle *being filled* + (with) + noun in dative)

1. Unrighteousness - against standards
Refers to one’s standing before the law: legal and spiritual. All of humanity fails to understand what God reveals. In an unrighteous standard we are separate from God.
2. (Immorality) - sexual sins
Some translators include the word *immorality*, referring to sexual sins—which have been detailed in verses 26 and 27. Found in some manuscripts.
3. Wickedness - hostile activity
This includes the idea of hostile activities where people take it out on others in a physical way. People cheating others or the government. Outright antagonism: screaming, hollering, leading to physical damage.
4. Greed - wanting more
The tendency to not be satisfied with what we have. We always want more. This is the old nature. We, as believers, still have the old nature along with the new, so we are not immune to any of these. In fact, we can walk in a lifestyle that is contrary to what God would have us to do; we can be in an unrighteous, on-going lifestyle and need to confess it, bring it to God. We can even get involved in sexual behaviors as well, and we can take our aggressions out on other people. Also, we live in a world where greed and materialism dominate; God’s wrath is seen in people that He is allowing to destroy themselves with material things.

5. Evil - badness
The general word for badness, *κακία* (kah-kí-a), is translated *evil* in the New American Standard version. This word covers everything that hasn't been stated elsewhere. Every form: thoughts, motives, attitudes or overt action.

We can think about the fruit of the Spirit and match them with these bad characteristics:

El fruto del Espíritu Santo

1. Unrighteousness - Goodness
Think of ways, instead of walking contrary to God, how we can benefit brothers and sisters or even the unbeliever.
2. (Immorality) - Self-Control
Self control is necessary in the sexual realm.
3. Wickedness - Goodness
Self control and especially goodness rather than mean things.
4. Greed - Kindness
We can consciously think of ways to be kind rather than how to take advantage of people.
5. Evil - Goodness
If we have a recurring sin, we can counteract it with the opposite thought and action. Again, overall goodness.
Unbelievers do not have this option; everything we do for them ought to be with the goal of bringing them to Christ, so that the Holy Spirit can enable them to overcome whatever sin or addiction affects them.

1.29 ... being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

“full...” + (of) Genitives (participle + noun in genitive of content which includes the ‘of’ in English)

1. Envy - what we are not
Sometimes we see others with skills or attributes, things that we do not have, so we desire it. That is a sin; God wants us to have contentment and satisfaction in what He has given us. That does not preclude self improvement.
2. Murder - even in heart
Jesus said that it is not just the overt act. The intent of the Mosaic Law goes all the way to the heart; it is not just an external, legal code, it's a code that goes all the way to the heart of man.

Murder begins in that hateful, angriness that resides in the believer. It is the root of the act of murder: the heart. Jesus said it right after referring to evil thoughts. Murder is even in the heart when you desire the damage or elimination of someone, ‘Get them out of my life’!

3. Strife - beating up
This can be a verbal beating up of someone or it can be the physical striking of them.
4. Deceit - deceive
Also done by believers. Present something that is not reality as if it were reality. We are uncomfortable...we say ‘white lives’.
5. Malice - make all worse
Different from the general badness or wickedness. Always making things worse than they are.

Fruit of Holy Spirit

1. Envy - Kindness
Find satisfaction in meeting others' needs.
2. Murder - Love, peace
Love does not murder. Have peace and don't strike out at others.
3. Strife - Love, peace
Also love and peace within us prevent creation of problems among others.
4. Deceit - Faithfulness
If we are faithful, first to God, then in relationship to others, we can seek their best rather than trying to deceive them.
5. Malice - Gentle, patience
The opposite of malice is gentleness and patience.

We have the only solution for mankind's problem!!!

[Romans 1.30-32 Mental Depravity-2 025]

Paul is giving us a long list, the longest in the Bible— of the sins that we can see in our culture. As believers we also have to avoid them with the help of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit.

We have already studied the first group which starts with a participle: *being filled*...then the nouns in the dative case listing characteristics:

1.29 ...being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil;...

And then the next ones are *full of* plus nouns in the genitive which list behaviors:

1.29 ...full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice;...

Now we look at the third group: *they are* followed by 12 nouns and adjectives in the accusative case (as is the word 'them') describing the people that God let go their own way. In verse 28: *God gave them over to a depraved mind:*

1.29 ...*they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;...

Accusative plurals

1. Gossips - whisperers
2. Slanders - destroy reputations
Deliberately cutting people down to make others think less of them. It takes a lifetime to develop a reputation, but only a little bit of slander to undermine it all.
3. Haters of God - and His own
They hate God and the people who belong to God. We are becoming the brunt of their hatred.
4. Insolent - insulting others
Insulting, causing pain to others. Boldly disrespectful.
5. Arrogant - an attitude
The attitude that 'I am better than you, have more power, or have better position...' This is a list of things you can see in others as well.
God gives people up to a depraved mind—which produces all these things. Not all of the things in one person, but you can see them in different people. And people don't think anything of it because they have a distorted sense of what is wrong.
6. Boastful - an action
Related to arrogant which is more an attitude that results in being boastful which is an overt action.

Again, once we become a believer all of these things don't just automatically disappear. If we were inclined towards arrogance, or to insolence or anger, it doesn't just evaporate when we trust in Jesus Christ, because we still have the old nature. We are forgiven and will never suffer the eternal consequences for it. We have been given a brand new standing.

But we need to renew our thinking so that our actions will go along with that renewed mind or thinking. And we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, we can apply the Scripture; for example, if we tended to be gossipers, which fruit of the Spirit might counteract that? In fact, the Bible encourages us to put off that old nature, in

Ephesians, Colossians and other places. But you can't just *put off* certain things and just say: 'I'm going to quit doing this.' You have to *put on* something or replace it, and you replace it with the fruit of the Spirit, that is, allow the Spirit to not only renew the mind but to work within you to change those actions.

Fruit of the Holy Spirit

1. Gossips - Kindness, Self-control
Speak the truth in love
2. Slanders - Faithfulness
Kindness, rather than 'running them down', be faithful to them. We have to do these things in the process of pursuing holiness. Another example is 'putting on the armor of God', Ephesians six.
3. Haters of God - Faithfulness
Faithfulness to God counteracts the hating of God.
4. Insolent - Faithfulness
Is contrasted with love.
5. Arrogant - Self-control
All of these include love
6. Boastful - Self-control

1.29 ... being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, unloving, unmerciful;

Accusative Plurals

7. Inventors of Evil - creative
There are people who are so ingenious in the way they do fraud, that if they put that genius to work they could make millions. But they use their genius to defraud people to make millions.
8. Disobedient to Parents - !!!
We have all seen this—and done it!
9. Without Understanding - fools
A depraved mind is one that doesn't have a true picture of reality. One can gain more knowledge but never to an understanding of truth.
10. Untrustworthy - unreliable
This we see everywhere, especially in many workplaces.
11. Unloving - self-focus
They focus on themselves so cannot think of other people.
12. Unmerciful - unavailable
Unavailable if you have a need. And they don't care.

These are just examples that you can observe in the culture and you can think of them as having been abandoned by God for these manifestations. They destroy—the work environment, the individual, relationships and, until a person sees that destruction and is convicted of that sin, God allows it to persist. But with the gospel people can be turned around. What people need to realize is that they cannot ‘overcome’ an issue like one of these; but they are separated from God and need a relationship with Him. This includes homosexuality as well; they need to come to realize that only God can make that change.

Fruit of Holy Spirit

1. Inventors of Evil - self-control
Using abilities to serve others and God.
2. Disobedient to Parents - faithfulness
If no longer a minor, respect for parents.
3. Without Understanding - faithfulness
4. Untrustworthy - faithfulness
5. Unloving - love
6. Unmerciful - love, patience

Love can be used for all of these. Experiencing the love of God results in many changes in our hearts and lives.

- b. Rendering of Wrath 1.24-32
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 - c) Degradation of Life Style 1.28
 - d) Description of Degradation 1.29-31
 - e) Indictment 1.32

Paul concludes with an indictment. There are four parts to the sentence (verses 28 to 32):

Subordinate clause : *the failure to acknowledge God*, verse 28.

Main clause: *God abandons them to the degradation of their lifestyle.*

Description of that degradation, verses 29-32.

And now the last clause: an indictment to which God leads lost humanity, verse 32.

1.32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

This refers back to what Paul developed in 1.19-23: man has a revelation of God and part of that revelation is in the area of what is right and wrong which is *conscience*. Man has a sense of what is right and what is wrong, that there are standards. The *ordinances of God* sometimes refers to the commandments of God, sometimes to the Law, that is, what God has specified and has made clear concerning right and wrong.

People are not aware of it; they have suppressed it, justified it, rationalized it so that they think it is either ‘not that bad’ or ‘it’s OK.’ But they inwardly know it is *not* OK, even though they have covered it up and replaced it with other ideas. That includes the homosexual community; they feel perfectly satisfied that this is OK, ‘this is way God made me’, they will say. But inwardly they know the ordinances of God. They may say how wrong it is to shoot people indiscriminately, for example, showing that they do have a sense of right and wrong.

So they know the ordinance of God; we do not necessarily convince people of evil and sin. They have an inward sense already. We present the gospel and let the Spirit convict them; we don’t even have to deal with specific sin. Dealing with lesbians, for example, I never mentioned their lifestyle, keeping it general, talking about all being lost. To make a specific sin an issue just closes the door; rather they often mention a sin because they know these things.

Terms

> **ἐπιγινώσκω** (*e-pee-gui-nós-ko*) - to have full knowledge
‘gui-nós-ko’ means ‘to know’. When you add a preposition to a word in a Greek text, it intensifies it. So ‘e-pee-gui-nós-ko’ has the idea of *full* knowledge. People have a real sense of standards, right and wrong.

> **δικαίωμα** (*dee-kaí-o-mah*) - stipulations, ordinance

The word for ordinances, ‘dee-kaí-o-mah’ which is related to ‘dee-kai-o-sú-nay’ = righteousness, so it deals with right standards and has specific stipulations of the law.

1.32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

And, not only do they know these things, they also know that those who practice such things are ‘worthy of death’. They know there are consequences to sin. And the Holy Spirit, in the gospel message, can bring it up to the surface and convict people. We need to concentrate on a clear, accurate presentation of the gospel.

to rebuild their lives. And we continue working on our lives—until we go to be with the Lord.

Terms

> **ἐπιγινώσκω** (e-pee-gui-nós-ko) - to have full knowledge

> **δικαίωμα** (dee-kaí-o-mah) - stipulations, ordinance

> Awareness of eternal judgment

There is an awareness of eternal judgment in all unbelievers. They not only do the same (things of verses 29-31), *but also give hearty approval to those who practice them*. Why? Because it soothes their conscience; if others are doing it and you approve of it then you are saying that you want them to approve of your sin as well.

1.32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

So they know that those who practice those things are worthy of eternal death, separation. This is the end product of depravity: one is trying to make excuses. So where is our culture? It demands that you be tolerant and accept certain sins.

1.32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

Terms

> **ἐπιγινώσκω** (e-pee-gui-nós-ko) - to have full knowledge

> **δικαίωμα** (dee-kaí-o-mah) - stipulations, ordinance

> Awareness of eternal judgment

> **συνευδοκέω** (sun-you-do-kéh-o) - agree with, approve of

The homosexual community demands not only approval, but demands certain privileges and rights beyond this that everyone enjoys. We are well past Romans 1 today.

Have we become Sodom yet?.....Or have we passed Sodom?

We have the only solution for mankind's problem! We have the gospel which is the only way to a *saving* relationship with Christ and to begin