

Sermon
Abandon By God 3
Session 22

In the following verses we see again the consequences of God's abandonment of rebellious mankind, showing the essence, the expression, and the extent of man's sinfulness.

We have already looked at the essence of man's sinfulness. How he abandoned God, rejecting His place as creator, and maintainer of the universe and all that is created. Also rejecting His authority over mankind, and thus refusing to give thanks for all that He has provided for us. We reject His existence, therefore we reject any notion that we should have any kind of connection or relationship with a God. Thus we also reject the idea that we have any need to be accountable to a creator or God or any authority over us.

Romans 1:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ *For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.*

²⁷ *Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

For this reason, Paul declares that is, because of man's rejecting the true God for false gods of his own making, for worshiping the creature rather than the Creator, **God gave them over to degrading passions.**

This is the second time that Paul mentions that God abandons sinful mankind. (see v 24)

He abandoned them not only to idolatry, the ultimate sexual expression of man's spiritual degeneracy, but also to **degrading passions**, which he identifies in these two verses as homosexuality, the ultimate expression of man's moral degeneracy.

To illustrate the **degrading passions** that rise out of the fallen human heart, Paul uses homosexuality, the most **degrading** and repulsive of all passions.

In their freedom from God's truth men turned to perversion and even inversion of the created order. In the end their humanism resulted in the dehumanization of each of them.

Perversion is the illicit and twisted expression of that which is God given and natural. Homosexuality, on the other hand, is inversion, the expression of that which is neither God given nor natural. When man forsake the Author of nature, he inevitably forsakes the order of nature.

Some **women** of ancient times and throughout history have **exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural.**

Paul does not use *gune*, the usual term for **women**, but rather *theleia*, which simply means female. In most cultures women have been more reluctant than men to become involved either in sexual promiscuity or homosexuality. Perhaps Paul mentions **women** first because their practice of homosexuality is especially shocking and dismayed.

In commenting on this verse, Charles Hodge wrote, "*Paul first refers to the degradation of females among the heathen, because they are always the last to be affected in the decay of morals, and their corruption is therefore proof that all virtue is lost*" (commentary on the Epistle to the Romans [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983 reprint], p. 42)

The word *Chresis* (*function*) was commonly used of sexual intercourse, and in this context the term could refer to nothing other than intimate sexual relations.

Even most pagan societies have recognized the clearly obvious fact that homosexuality is abnormal and **unnatural**. it is also an abnormality that is unique to man.

And in the same way also the men, Paul says, again using a Greek term that simply denotes gender, in this case, males. The usual Greek terms for women and men, like corresponding terms in most languages, imply a certain dignity, and Paul refused to ascribe even an implied dignity to those who degenerate into homosexuality.

Those males, says Paul, **abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts.**

Paul's describing here using the term burned, refers to a level of lust among homosexuals that beggars description and is rarely known among heterosexuals.

The homosexuals of Sodom were so passionately consumed with their lust that they ignored the fact that they had been made blind and wearied themselves trying to find the doorway into lot's house in order to pursue their vile passion.
(Gen 19:11)

Those ancient people were so morally perverse that in Scripture the name Sodom became a byword for immoral godlessness, and sodomy, a term derived from that name, became throughout history a synonym for homosexuality and other forms of sexual deviation.

In the United States and many other western countries it is not uncommon for homosexual males to have 300 partners a year.

Even when relationships are on a friendly basis, the most bizarre acts imaginable are committed, and mutilation is common.

In his biography *(Where Death Delights, by Marshall Houts [New York: Coward McCann, 1967])* the New York City forensic expert Dr. Milton. Helpern, who makes no claim of being a Christian and avoids making moral judgments about homosexuality, never the less comments that after having performed thousands of autopsies, he would warn anyone who chooses a homosexual lifestyle to be prepared for the consequences: *"when we see brutal, multiple wound cases in a single victim, we just automatically assume that we're dealing with a homosexual victim and a homosexual attacker. I don't know why it is so, but it seems that the violent explosions of jealousy among homosexuals far exceed those of the jealousy of a man for a woman, or a woman for a man. The pent up charges and energy of the homosexual relationship simply cannot be contained. When the explosive point is reached, the result is brutally violent. But this is the normal pattern of these homosexual attacks, the multiple stabbings, the multiple senseless beating that obviously must continue long after the victim dies.*

A San Francisco coroner estimated that ten percent of his city's homicides were probably related to sado-masochistic sex among homosexuals. (cf. Bob Greene, "Society's Been Given Far Too Much Rope," the *Chicago Tribune* [19 March 1981], Sec. 2, p. 1.)

Yet in spite of such impartial and damning evidence, many people, including a large number of psychologists and other social professionals, persist in maintaining that there is no scientific proof that homosexuality is abnormal or harmful to society.

Some even assert that attempts to convert homosexuals to heterosexuality are ethically questionable.

The city government of San Francisco has even conducted workshops to teach homosexuals how to avoid serious bodily harm while engaging in sado-masochistic sex. all though by definition, both sadism and masochism are destructive!

The very purpose of both deviations is to inflict pain and harm sadism on others and masochism on oneself.

Many mass murderers seem to be homosexuals.

Now listen, it is unimaginable, that many church denominations in the United States and elsewhere have ordained homosexuals to the ministry and even established special congregations for homosexuals.

One denominational group claims that homosexuality is no more abnormal than left handedness. An Official church organization for homosexuals is called Dignity.

Instead of trying to help their children become free of sexual deviation, many parents of homosexuals have banded together to defend their children and to coerce society, government, and churches to recognize and accept homosexuality as normal.

In many cases, religions that hold homosexuality to be a sin are blamed for the tragic results that homosexuals bring on themselves and on their families and friends.

Evangelical Christianity in particular is often made the culprit and is accused of persecuting innocent people who cannot help being what they are.

In both testaments God's Word condemns homosexuality in the strongest of terms.

Now does God hate the homosexual? Absolutely not, He offers salvation, and freedom from sin to the Homosexual as well as anyone else. And the Gospel is the power of salvation in any man or woman who will turn to Him regardless of the sin in his or her life. He wants to redeem them, He wants to free them, He wants to make them His own. So let's never forget that.

Paul is very clear however that although homosexuality can be forgiven and cleansed just as any other sin, no unrepentant homosexual will enter heaven, just as will no unrepentant fornicator, idolater, adulterer, effeminate person, thief, covetous person, drunkard, reviler, or swindler will ever see heaven. (1Cor. 6:9-11; cf. Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5; 1Tim. 1:9-10; Jude 7)

All people are born in sin, and individuals have varying tendencies and temptations toward certain sins. So a person who becomes a habitual and unrepentant thief, murderer, adulterer, or homosexual does so of his own choice.

Any attempt at all to justify homosexuality is both futile and wicked, but to attempt to justify it on biblical grounds, as so many misguided church leaders, is even more futile and vile.

To do that is to make God a liar and to love what He hates and justify what He condemns.

God so abhors homosexuality that He determined that the disgraceful, shameful acts that women commit with women and men commit with men would result in their **receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.**

They would be judged by the self-destructiveness of their sin.

The appalling physical consequences of homosexuality are visible evidence of God's righteous condemnation. Unnatural vice brings its own perverted reward. We need to always remember that without fail.

Now that brings us to the extent of Man's Sinfulness

Romans 1:28-32 (NKJV)

²⁸ *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;*

²⁹ *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,*

³⁰ *backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,*

³¹ *undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;*

³² *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*

Because fallen mankind **did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over** in still another way, in this case to a **depraved mind**.

The godless mind is a **depraved mind**, whose predetermined and inevitable disposition is **to do those thing which are not proper**.

The basic meaning of *adokimos (depraved)* is that of not standing the test, and the term was commonly used of metals that were rejected by refiners because of impurities.

With this process, came the ideas of worthlessness, and uselessness.

In relation to God, the rejecting mind becomes a rejected mind and thereby becomes spiritually **depraved**, worthless and useless.

The mind that finds God worthless becomes worthless itself. It is debauched, deceived, and deserving only of God's divine wrath.

The sinful **depraved mind** says to God, ***"Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Thy ways. Who is the almighty, that we should serve Him, and what would we gain if we entreat Him? (Job 21:14-15)***

Regardless of their natural intelligence and their learning in the physical realm, in the things of God they are devoid even of ***"the beginning of knowledge,*** because they lack reverential fear of Him. They are merely ***"fools [who] despise wisdom and instruction"*** (Prov. 1:7; cf. v. 29).

The catalog of sins Paul proceeds to mention in Romans 1:29-31 is not exhaustive, but it is representative of the virtually endless number of vices with which the natural man is filled.

In most societies of the world, even in those considered uncivilized most of the sins Paul lists here are considered wrong, and many are held to be crimes. Men inherently know that such things as greed, envy, murder, deceit, arrogance, disobedience, and mercilessness are wrong.

The absolute pit of wickedness is reached, Paul says, when those who are themselves involved in evils, **also give hearty approval to others who practice them**.

To justify one's own sin is wicked enough, but to approve and encourage others to sin is immeasurably worse.

Even the best of societies have had those within them who were blatantly wicked and perverse. But a society that openly condones and defends such evils as sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, and the rest has reached the deepest level of corruption.

Many of the most socially advanced societies of our own day are in that category. Sexually promiscuous celebrities are glamorized and the rights of homosexuals are ardently defended.

These acts of sin are in direct contradiction to the revealed will of God.

A certain species of ants in Africa builds it nests in deep subterranean tunnels, where its young and its queen live. Although they may be great distances from the nest foraging for food, worker ants of that species are able to sense when the queen is being molested and they become extremely nervous and uncoordinated.

If she is killed, they become frantic and rush around aimlessly until they die.

What better illustration could there be of fallen man. Even in his sinful rejection and rebellion, he cannot function properly apart from God and is destined only for death.