

**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)