

# Give Me My Change

## Romans 1:24-27; 32

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#### I. God Gave Them Over vs. 24-25

Gave over- to hand over someone to their own power, placing a person under the authority and protective care of someone

LoTH- Inward desires for something that is forbidden

Impurity- Filth and moral corruption, typically describing sexual sins

Exchange- To substitute seemingly equivalent items

1. Fools who follow the lust of the heart will live a dishonorable life v.24
  - A. God allows to experience the fullness of their own self-determination to be led and protected by their own logic and emotion—it is not that people have lost their minds, but have made up their minds
  - B. A fool's desires drive them away from God
    - An impure lifestyle is the route to dishonor—Highway
    - Ungodly passions provide direction and purpose—GPS
  - C. Moral corruption is the evidence that God's standard has been disregarded, dishonor is the outcome
    - The word of God is the only objective moral standard
  - D. Sinful sexual ethics is one of the indicators of spiritual and personal decline (one aspect of being given over 28-30 lists)
    - Sexual sin will deprive you of your self-respect and self-worth
  - Your heart entices you to pursue physical satisfaction at any cost
    - Insists that the sum of your value is your physical body
    - Weaponizes your insecurities and pride against you through comparison and self-promotion
    - Leaves you with the baggage of impulsive and reckless choices.
  - E. Remember you are not you own—The believer has been bought with a price and our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, honor God with your body
2. People have disregarded God's self-revelation v.25
  - A. The truth has become substituted with a lie
    - Our knowledge of Him comes through special and general revelation (1:18-20) – Truth is complete and absolute
  - This truth is that people can find true fulfillment only in worshiping and obediently serving God the Creator

- The lie is that we can exist independent of God, self-sufficient, self-directing, and self-fulfilling.
  - Mankind made himself his god in place of the true God
    - Man has a responsibility to respond to God's self-disclosure with worship, thankfulness and obedience
    - Although God was "known", people still suppressed the truth through idolatry—lying on God with our lives, living inconsistent with God's word
- B. Devotion to temporary creation instead of the eternal Creator
- Sexuality is where people have placed their identity and hope
  - Dark hearted determined to obey their sinful passions: The temporary feelings drive people to make decisions under the impression of permanence

## II. Uneven Exchange vs. 26-27

Degrading Passion- disgraceful and shameful emotions and desires

Abandoned- To move away from something or someone with the expectation of separation

Error- Wandering from the truth through perverting what has created for his glory and twisting it for yours

1. Idol worship is costly—encountered the passive wrath of God
  - A. God gave people over to degrading passions (v. 26-27)
    - Their desires (and actions) were judged and condemned— Behavior
    - They grew numb to God and grew PRIDEful
  - B. Lifestyle of resistance to natural function and purpose
    - They burned in uncontrollable and their passions consumed them
    - The influence of the LGBTQIA+ ideology is destructive to your body and incompatible with the Christian faith— it preys on the most vulnerable members of society, our children

Faith:

- 1.) Self-fulfilling Rebellion: Seeking satisfaction outside of God and the parameters he has set since the beginning (Gen 1:27)
  - Endorses you to practice sin
  - Encourages the placement of your identity to be in your sexuality
  - Offensive to God, His original design and definition of sex and gender

Body:

- 1.) Self-directing Delusion: Denial of God's design based on faulty reasoning and judgment yet the world around them must conform to their perception
  - Requires you to alter your body to align with self-perception, that inconsistent with the Word of God

- Change what you are called and how you present yourself
- C. Eternal separation from God is the penalty of perversion
  - God must judge sin— He is just and perverting His glory has a price
  - Penalty is a reciprocal transaction—wages of sin is death
- The return of sinful work is separation from God on earth and after death
  - All sin is repulsive and have the same spiritual consequence yet different physical consequences

### **III. Knowing Better $\neq$ Doing Better v. 32**

Hearty approval- to join in agreement; be an ally

1. Any alliance with darkness will inevitably lead to destruction
2. Knowledge doesn't transform you, spiritual renewal does

## Commentary for Reader Assistance

### The Bible Knowledge Commentary

#### 2. results of condemnation (1:24–32)

In a real sense the results of God's condemnation on rebellious humanity are nothing more than the natural consequences of suppressing truth, ignoring revelation, and perverting God's glory. However, God did more than simply let nature take its course. God acted to abandon (the thrice-mentioned "gave them over" [vv. 24, 26, 28] is *paredōken*, "abandoned") people to expressions of a corrupt lifestyle that deserved God's wrath and the sentence of death (v. 32).

##### a. Abandoned to fornication (1:24–25).

1:24. One aspect of mankind's corruption (to which God actively let people go) was sexual profligacy. The frequency of live-in lovers, wife-swapping, and group sex parties today only confirms this result of God's abandonment. Sex within marriage is a holy gift from God, but otherwise sex is impurity (lit., "uncleanness") and the degrading of ... bodies by using them contrary to God's intent.

1:25. In a sense this verse repeats the truth of verse 23, but it expresses more. The truth of God is not only the truth concerning God but also God's truth concerning all things, including mankind. This truth is that people are creatures of God and can find true fulfillment only in worshiping and obediently serving God the Creator. A lie (lit., "the lie") on the other hand says that the creature—angelic (Isa. 14:13–14; John 8:44) or human (Gen. 3:4–5)—can exist independent of God, self-sufficient, self-directing, and self-fulfilling. Mankind made himself his god in place of the true God. Because God the Creator is forever praised (in contrast with creatures who are undeserving of worship), Paul added Amen. This word transliterates in both Greek and English the Hebrew word meaning "so let it be." As an affirmation, not a wish, it places approval on what has just been said (cf. comments on 2 Cor. 1:20).

##### b. Abandoned to sexual perversion (1:26–27).

1:26–27. Also God gave them over to shameful lusts (lit., "passions of disgrace"). This involved, as the text states, both sexes engaging in homosexual instead of heterosexual relationships. Women deliberately exchanged natural relations (with men in marriage) for unnatural ones (with other women). This is the second "exchange" the unregenerate made (cf. v. 25). Men ... were inflamed with lust (*orexei*, "sexual lust," used only here in the NT and differing from the more common word for lust in v. 26).

The words translated women and men in these verses are the sexual words "females" and "males." Contemporary homosexuals insist that these verses mean that it is perverse for a heterosexual male or female to engage in homosexual relations but it is not perverse for a homosexual male or female to do so since homosexuality is such a person's natural preference. This is strained exegesis unsupported by the Bible. The only natural sexual relationship the Bible recognizes is a heterosexual one (Gen. 2:21–24; Matt. 19:4–6) within marriage. All homosexual relations constitute sexual perversion and are subject to God's

judgment. Such lustful and indecent acts have within them the seeds of punishment (due penalty).

c. Abandoned to depraved lifestyle (1:28–32).

1:28. Pagan humanity's rebellion also included the rejection of the knowledge (epignōsei, "full knowledge"; cf. v. 32) of God. In a sense they put God out of their minds. God's responding judgment was abandonment (cf. vv. 24, 26) to a depraved (adokimon, "disapproved") mind, which expressed itself in attitudes and actions that ought not to be done (lit., "what is unfitting or improper," a technical Stoic word).

1:29–31. The mental vacuum created by dismissing God was filled (the perf. tense implies filled full) with four forms of active sin: wickedness (adikia; cf. v. 18), evil (ponēria), greed, and depravity (kakia, "badness or malice"). These four in turn express themselves in 17 more specific types of wickedness. The first two, envy and murder, sound much alike in Greek: phthonou and phonou. Also the four vices in verse 31 each begin with the Greek letter alpha ("a" in Eng.).

1:32. This whole pattern of evil becomes the lifestyle of people who continue to do (pres. tense implies continuing or habitual action) these very things in open defiance of God, a defiance aggravated (a) by fully knowing (epignontes; cf. v. 28) that such things deserve death and (b) by encouraging others in the same lifestyle. Such extremity of human rebellion against God fully warrants God's condemnation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John A. Witmer, "Romans," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 443–444.