

# The Effects

## Romans 1:25-27

### Jeffrey Allen

**Effect definition-** a change that is a result or consequence of an action or other cause.

#### **A. Effects of Exchange v. 25**

1. Exchanged Truth for Falsehood- The word exchanged translated here means “to change-one thing for another” They have suppressed the truth and, in return, accepted deception. Here Paul continues the message of unbelief and its consequences: those who walk in ungodliness and unrighteousness have substituted God’s Truth and accepted lies or falsehood.

John 8:44 – says Satan is the father of lies. Falsehood is a weapon of Satan. In Gen 3:4 the serpent directly contradicts God’s Word by telling Eve, “You will not certainly die. In Gen. 3:6,, Eve actively exchanging the truth for a lie as she eats from the tree and gives it to Adam.

2. Truth comes from God. Psalms 25:5 says, “Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for You, I wait all the day long.”
3. Their worship - They served created things (trees, reptiles, images man-made, creation) that they served as idols or false gods rather than the true God who is blessed forever.
4. An idol is a lie, and a false representation of God used to prohibit lies and fleshly worship. Rome's culture was filled with idols and false deities. Even though the evidence of God

was clearly seen in creation (Romans 1:19), they failed to acknowledge Him and instead made creation the idol of their worship.

5. God is blessed forever- the creator and master behind the artwork. An audience may admire the art but bows down to the artist for the masterpiece his hands have created.
6. In Psalm 103:22- **Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion.**

**Bless the Lord, O my soul!** - The Psalmist recognizes God's works and His sovereignty or control and commends Him.

7. Paul is saying those who worship the image of a creature insult and dishonor the Creator, who is eternally worthy of honor and glory.

## **B. Effects of Degrading Passions v. 26**

1. Gave them over- This Greek word is translated "to hand over, betray, surrendered or transmitted" This is actually a legal term of the court to speak of a person who had been found guilty and was handed over judgment.
2. In this context, it refers to the act of God altogether abandoning the unrighteous. As the wicked deserted God, God, in turn, deserted them, no longer giving them divine direction or restraint but allowing them to corrupt themselves as they wished. Because they would not honor Him, He let them do what they pleased to dishonor themselves. Being given over or yielded up to one's sinful desires is a judgment from God. With their persistence to pursue lies over truth,, God delivered them to what they were passionate about. In this passage, we see God gave them over to these things. As the godless run farther and farther from God, God intervenes less and less. The Spirit's restraint of sin is a blessing; if that restraint is removed, all wickedness follows.

- “God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them” (verse 24, NASB).

- “God gave them over to degrading passions” (verse 26, NASB).

- “God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper” (verse 28, NASB).

3. Paul wrote this from the city of Corinth, where every sort of sexual immorality and ritualistic prostitution was practiced freely. The terminology of Romans 1:24 refers to this combination of sexual immorality and idolatrous worship.
4. Paul, here, begins to speak about the corruption and sin of this pagan world. Paul was straightforward, leaving no stone unturned. Reading this should spoil a person’s stomach and turn their appetite away.
5. Paul’s “unnatural” echoes the critique of homosexual behavior. Paul lived in a culture that openly approved homosexuality. Paul didn’t write this to a culture that agreed with him. Paul wrote to a culture where homosexuality was accepted as a part of life for both men and women. For some 200 years, the men who ruled the Roman Empire openly practiced homosexuality, often with young boys.
6. Women went against God’s natural order of sexual relations and began to desire other women. When sex or anything other than God reigns in our lives, things become out of

order, unnatural worship begins to happen, and the truth of the word of God is suppressed.

7. In verse 26-27 Paul uses male and female to describe the unnatural order of practices done. In Gen. 1:27 it states God made male and female in his image. Male and female “knew” each other in every intimate sense including sexual so that they may be fruitful and multiply. This is the natural biblical narrative of creation. After distorting God’s image through idolatry (Ro 1:23), humanity distorted God’s male and female image in themselves through sexual misconduct.

### **C. Effects of Abandoning v. 27**

1. The Greek for “Abandoned” is to cancel; leave; or to allow.
2. Men canceled the natural order for how they related sex with women and chose to desire men.
3. The text describes their desire for men as inflamed. This unnatural desire is strong from within.
4. The Greek for word for error is *planē*, n.]. delusion, deception
5. In committing these unnatural and shameful acts there was the penalty of the choices. They experienced the judgment for following their own deceptions.

6. Many may think these types of lifestyles bring satisfaction and are natural but that is a delusion. There are consequences from these acts that leave a trail of tragedy.

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*References*

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