

## **Romans 1:26 - Wrath Revealed: God Abandons Man to Dishonoring Passions (Part 1).**

- Theme: We must understand God's view of LGBTQ.

### I. Christian Thinking about the LGBTQ Practice - Romans 1:26, 27.

- A. God Himself Gives Mankind Over - Ro 1:26b (Psa 81:12; 2 Thes 2:10-12).
- B. God Has Reasons for Giving Mankind Over - Ro 1:26a (Ro 1:24, 25; Psa 49:20).
- C. God Gives Mankind Over to a Particular Abandonment - Ro 1:26c-27.
  1. The essence of this abandonment is degrading passions - Ro 1:26c.
    - a. "Passion, Desire" - Col 3:5; 1 Thes 4:5; 1 Cor 6:12.
      - i. "Pathos" originally was a passive feeling but became excessive, irrational thinking contrary to nature.
      - ii. We are all born with natural desires of the body (food, water, air, sexual satisfaction when puberty reached). Most of the rest of the things that we desire are learned from our surroundings (nurtured desires). A baby comes out of the womb hungry (a natural desire), but is not born with innate desire for designer clothes or a certain kind of music. He learns from his family, peers and culture to want those things as he grows.
      - iii. Eph 2:3 - These are "desires of the mind."
      - iv. Desires can be learned and unlearned. Fashions 10 years ago don't have the appeal of today. Desires change when thinking changes.
      - v. Many of the learned desires are not necessarily wrong in themselves, unless they are pursued in a sinful manner or for a sinful motive.
      - vi. James 1:13, 14 - Temptations do not come from without, but from within.
      - vii. James 1:14 - "Own" is the Greek word *idias* from which we get "idiosyncrasy," something that is peculiar or unique to an individual. Although temptations are common to every man, these strong desires are uniquely our own in strength and combinations. They are uniquely our own like fingerprints. Our desires manifest themselves

differently in each of us. "It doesn't make sense that they do that." Well, it doesn't make sense to us, but it makes perfect sense to them.

- b. "Dishonoring; Degrading" - Gen 18:20-19:38; Lev 18:22; 20:13; 1 Cor 6:9; 1 Tim 1:9, 10; Jude 7.
2. The expression of this abandonment is unnatural sexuality - Ro 1:26d-27a.
    - a. Women - Ro 1:26d.
      - i. The person exchanges (as in Ro 1:25).
      - ii. "Function" is a word used for sexual intercourse.
      - iii. "Natural." "Creator, creation, nature & bodies" are mentioned 10 times in Ro 1:19-27.
      - iv. Women are mentioned before men because in most cultures, women are the last to be affected by moral collapse. If women are corrupt, cultural virtue is lost.
    - b. Men - Ro 1:27a.

### II. Christian Thinking about the LGBTQ Person - Romans 1:28-32.

Conclusion - 1 Cor 6:9-11 - We can be cleansed from all sin.

#### **Questions for Thought and Discussion.**

1. From this message, what was the truth that stuck out the most to you?
2. Explain the difference between natural desires of the body and learned desires.
3. What are some toys, clothing or objects that have you wanted very badly? Were you born with a desire for those things, or did you learn to want these things?
4. Why are many of the learned desires not wrong in themselves?
5. Concerning our own lust discussed in James 1:14, what does God's use of *idias* (own) tell us about the nature of our desires?
6. What are some examples of strong desires that other people have that are not strong desires for you. These differences illustrate how we all have learned to desire in different combinations.
7. What was the fate of Sodom & Gomorrah (Genesis 18:20-19:38)?

#### **Thoughts for Prayer.**

1. Pray that God would help us all at Grace to open our eyes more clearly to how our own ways show up in situations in life.
2. Ask God to show us how our customized desires manifest themselves in our hearts.