

Homosexuality and the Gospel - Romans 1: 22-32

Some qualifying statements:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inerrant, authoritative Word of God – our highest authority. The values and principles of western culture (indeed every culture) change from one generation to the next; The Word of God however doesn't change.
2. If we deny the Bible to be our final authority on what is 'right' and what is 'wrong' then we implicitly affirm either our own moral judgment, or our cultures', or some other source as superior to this end – What creed, what worldview, what moral compass do you hold fast to?
3. The Bible is not concerned with 'political correctness' but the glory of God, the salvation of sinners and the reconciliation of creation to its creator.
4. The God of the Bible is simultaneously, Holy, Good, Just, Merciful, Slow to Anger, Abounding in Love, a Friend of Sinners, a Hater of Evil. In His nature and character, He is immutable (unchanging), He is perfect, He is All Knowing, All Powerful, able to create and able to transform!

Before grace 'teaches' you it must first 'save' you. Before you are told how to live a life of abundance that glorifies God, you must first receive the necessary motivation to live a life like this. That can not possibly come from law, it can't possibly come from 'religion' and from 'rules'; living a life motivated to enjoy and please God is made possible only when you realise how much He loves you and how passionate He is to see you fulfilled and satisfied in Him!

A devastating exchange (vs 22-23).

Our moral slide begins the moment we cease living for the glory of God. The moment we believe the lie that a happy life is found outside of relationship with God everything subsequently begins to unravel.

Q. What does it look like to live a life 'for the glory of God'?

Read vs 24-27.

Q. How do you instinctively react when hearing these verses read?

Q. Why are these verses so controversial in our culture?

The words for 'natural' and 'contrary to nature' are not describing subjective experiences of what 'feels natural' but appealing to what was established in creation, our origins.

Q. In what ways do we all suffer from 'unnatural' desires?

Sin, has caused us all to be distorted, like a virus we are born with that expresses itself in multiple ways... not just in sexual immorality of lusts and pornography, but in greed, in gossip, racism, classism, hatred, envy (as verses 29-31 describe).

"Run, John, run, the law commands, But gives us neither feet nor hands. Far better news the gospel brings: It bids us fly and gives us wings." (John Bunyan).

Q. Discuss this above quote and how it captures the heart of the gospel