

Chapter 7

God Gave Them Up

Romans 1:18 through the end of the chapter helps us to understand what's going on in the world in which we live. Verse 23 says, "*They changed ...*" They didn't change God but they, "... *changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*" In other words, they replaced God. Becoming fools; again, it all began with rejection of God; they now have replaced God with other things

Now, here we are thousands of years later with Generations that have developed the mindset of, basically, four fundamentals. It all goes back to this rejection of God. You look at the world today and you will find, in most people, this mindset that consists of four fundamental errors.

First there is *moral relativism*. Simply put, what is right or wrong is decided by culture or by social location, or the situation. The Bible does not determine, God does not determine, what is right or wrong. Culture decides what is right or wrong. This is why people will say, "Everyone else is doing it." That means they've determined that this is okay, because of an area you live in, or because of the situation, or the circumstances.

The next is *autonomous individualism*. This means all moral authority comes from within the individual. "It's my life, I can do with it whatever I want." That's autonomous individualism. It's a mindset where each individual is the arbiter of their own morality. If I don't think it's wrong then it's not wrong. It may be wrong for you, but it's not wrong for me because I don't see it as wrong. Autonomous individualism.

We hear much today about individualism. Abortion would be a case that would fall under autonomous individualism. "It's my body." The truth is we're talking about two bodies and one of them isn't yours. It goes back to this mindset of autonomous individualism. If you accuse someone that they were of the mindset of autonomous individualism, they would deny it. They wouldn't know what you're talking about. It's everywhere. People have

developed and been taught this mindset for many, many years.

Narcissistic hedonism. The focus is upon achieving personal pleasure. It's all about personal pleasure.

Then there's *reductive naturalism*, which basically means the only reliable knowledge is found in what you can see, hear, and feel. That of course does away with faith. The only reliable knowledge is found in what you can see, hear, and feel.

All of these are manifestations of this cycle that we see here in Romans 1. It is an insane cycle of destruction that is laid out here in this first chapter of Romans. These four things, these four erroneous mindsets, are in all of us to some degree. If you listen to people talk, you find these things all the time. They permeate our culture. It causes us to see how people think, how they reason, how they come to the conclusions they come to. We may observe their conclusions and the reasoning of people; and we may stand back and shake our heads, but if we can understand the cycle, we can see how they got there and what the problem really is.

These four errors have impacted man's view of God, of himself, of life. What happens is, life becomes based in atheism, or secularism. The idea is that man is his own god. Man is in charge. Each individual is his own god. That's how we get to the narcissistic society that we now live in.

The cycle continues. One generation teaches it to the next and it continues on. God is the only one who can break the cycle. I don't believe God is going to break the cycle for a nation. I believe He will break it for individuals. That will be the "remnant" of people. The cycle continues, accelerates and feeds itself throughout the generations. The consequences become more grave and widespread. Each consequence leads to the judgment of God. As the consequences grow the judgment of God grows as well.

As we were speaking upon the judgment of God, there are different types of God's judgment. Most people when they think of God's judgment they think of cataclysmic

earthquakes, floods, things of that sort. That's the Judgment of God. It may be, it may not be. But there's a more severe Judgment of God and that is, as people reject God and begin to progress through the cycle, God turns them over to themselves. That's what's being talked about here in Romans 1. That's where we are as a nation. Not only our nation but pretty much worldwide. God is turning people over to themselves. What happens is the cycle accelerates, which leads to greater judgment.

This brings us to verse 24, "*Wherefore* [Because of all these things we've mentioned.] *God also gave them up.*" He turned them over. "*Wherefore.*" For this reason or this purpose God gave them up. This is the judgment of God. God giving them over to themselves has very serious consequences, which is only going to lead to the next cause of God's wrath. You have man progressing in his sinful ways and at the same time you have the wrath of God progressing. God just letting them go.

Now in verse 24, "*God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:*" Look at that statement. God gave them up to uncleanness, to impurity, to moral defilement. He just let them go. They progress in impurity and world defilement. This is through the lust of their own hearts. Do not lay the fault on God. God's just giving them over to their own hearts, what they would naturally do, "... *through the lust* [Or desires.] *of their own hearts.*" Remember these hearts are spiritually darkened. They've rejected God, "...*to dishonour* [That is to disgrace.] *their own bodies between themselves.*"

Rejection of a natural knowledge of God results in vain imaginations, darkened hearts, self-deception and ignorance, a replacement of God, and obsession with self. Now we see in verse 24, a sex-obsessed, sex-crazed, sex-saturated society and culture. Here we are in a society and culture where the blatant expression of sexuality is in the forefront.

There is a constant bombardment of inappropriate

sexuality that man, because he's become a fool, sees absolutely nothing wrong with. We are constantly assaulted. Not just we adults, either. The children are constantly assaulted with sexual innuendo and inundated with the message and enticements of a sexuality that is distorted and unbiblical.

The Bible teaches God has set the boundaries for sexuality. But, man has rejected God and has become his own God. Now man with his mind determines what is right or society determines what's right. "It's okay," they will say for me to live with my girlfriend or vice versa. It's just the way the world is. Well, that's society determining what's right or wrong. That's twisted and it's a violation of the boundaries that God has set.

Boundaries serve a lot of purposes. One of the purposes of boundaries is protection. Many people look at boundaries as a restriction. They think that's unfair. But, boundaries can be for our own protection. God has set boundaries and when man goes beyond the boundaries of God, he is now outside of that hedge. He's in great Danger.

There is a sacredness that permeates the process of reproduction. In Genesis 2, you have the creation of humans, specifically stated male and female. That is repeated in Genesis 2:22. God made them male and female. That's God's design. Man, in his foolishness, thinks he can change God's design. That's God's design male and female.

As you read on, God brought the woman, female. (We have to stress, nowadays, the God created female. It's not a person who just decided they wanted to be a female.) God brought the God created female to the God created male. God did this. There was an establishment of marriage between man and woman. God created man. God created woman. God created male. God created female. God brings them together in Genesis 2:24.

Christ addressing the subject of marriage, made reference to that fact. Notice in Mark 10:7-9, "*For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; [His wife! That's NOT someone else's wife!] And they*

twain [Male and female, man and woman, in marriage.] shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain [Or two.] but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

You have the boundaries of marriage. God directly performed this marital union between Adam, the male, and Eve, the female. That is God's ordained plan for marriage; male and female. Man today will say, "Well that's not politically correct. Marriage can be between two males, between two females." No it can't. Not in God's eyes. God set the boundaries. If you have a problem with that, take it up with God. God established the boundary, male and female, within the bounds of marriage.

God placed honor upon marriage. In Hebrews 13:4, it says that marriage is honorable as God ordained it in the garden.

God established marriage for particular reasons. One was for the propagation of children. He told Adam and Eve, husband and wife, to be fruitful and multiply. Genesis 1:27-28. So, one of the reasons for marriage was reproduction.

One of the other reasons for marriage was for the benefit of man and woman. Genesis 2:18 says, "*And the LORD God said, [It is] not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet [A helper, fit.] for him.*" It was for the good of man.

It is also a preventative of immorality. 1st Corinthians 7:2 says, "*Nevertheless, to avoid fornication [Notice those two words, avoid fornication] let every man have his own wife and every woman have her own husband,*" It is to prevent fornication. Fornication is sex outside of marriage. Marriage is to prevent that. That's one of the purposes of marriage.

It is stated in Genesis 2:25, concerning Adam and Eve, "*... they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*" They were not ashamed because marriage is honorable. The words, "*the man and his wife*" are of great significance. God even sets bounds for

nakedness. It's for a man and his wife, not out there in the streets. God's definition of nakedness is quite different than man's definition of nakedness.

We want to establish that this cycle has now led to sexual impurity. God has established, has set boundaries for sexuality. What society says, what society believes has no bearing upon the God set boundaries. It does not change God's boundaries. When people remind us of what century it is, it doesn't matter. God's boundaries are still the same.

If man would just live within the boundaries of God, life would be enjoyable. You wouldn't have the problems that you have. Once those boundaries are crossed you have problems.

Chapter 7 - God Gave Them Up - Part 2

In Romans 1, we started looking at the evidence and progression of God's wrath. That brought us to verse 24, "*Wherefore [Because they've rejected God.] God also gave them up [He let go.] to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts*" Notice God did not put these desires in their hearts. He just let him go to fill the desires of their own hearts. The problem is the desires of their own hearts. The problem is not God. "... *through the lust of their own hearts to dishonour [To dishonor is a very important word.] their own bodies between themselves.*" God gave them up to impurity. This impurity as a result of the lust of their own hearts. What we have here in verse 24 is sexual immorality. Which of course increases as time goes on. Today, sexual immorality is a very common, and sadly, accepted form of behavior.

We saw in the previous lesson that God has set the bounds of sexual relations. He brought Adam and Eve together as husband and wife, male and female as God created them. Then we read in Genesis 2:25, "... *they were both naked, the man and his wife,*" I've had people say, "Well, they were naked so nothing wrong with it." What don't you understand about the man and his wife and the nakedness is in the context of the man and his wife. It's not public nudity. It's the man and his wife and they were not ashamed. People will take that and say there's no shame in public nudity. Well, that's not what the Bible says and you're really twisting scripture to develop that thought process from this verse. They were not ashamed as husband and wife, the man and his wife.

1st Corinthians 7 says, in the first couple verses "*let every man have his own wife.*" It doesn't say let every man have **a wife**, but rather, let every man have **his own wife**. She doesn't belong to anyone else. Again, it's not let every woman have **a husband**. It says. "... *let every woman have her own husband.*"

The sacredness, the bounds that God has set, that is to permeate the process of reproduction is this; the man and his own wife, her own husband; that's the bounds. It is

absolutely sickening when God's people try to defend the sexual impurity of their children or their grandchildren. There is no defense for it. God has set the bounds at the man and his own wife, her own husband. There's a sacredness about it.

Hebrews 13:4 says, "*Marriage [is] honourable.*" Going back to Romans 1:24, we read that word "dishonorable." To continue in Hebrews 13:4, "*Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed is undefiled.*" What bed is he talking about? He's talking about the marriage bed. The marriage bed is undefiled because that's within the bounds that God has set.

The sexual relationship which is necessary for reproduction as God created it and designed it is within the bounds of marriage. That was pure, that was wholesome, and still is. God's bounds are pure. Sex in the animal kingdom serves only one purpose; that is reproduction. That's what many have brought sex down to in human level is they've made it like the animals.

Within the bounds of God, God creates a sexual interest and appeal in human beings for the purpose of reproduction. Again, we have to state male and female. However, it goes beyond that. It's also an expression of love between a husband and wife. People outside of marriage say, "Well, I love them." Maybe you do, but that doesn't make sexual relations right. It has to be within the bounds of marriage if it's going to maintain its sacredness.

In ordaining sexual relations between male and female, as husband and wife, sex was created for marriage between male and female. God created male and female and he created them with a sexual drive. But he also designed marriage as the only outlet of sexual expression and the sexual act. By design of God, marriage is between a man and a woman. Marriage is the only acceptable place where sexual needs are to be met. The only place. That's God's design.

That seems strange today to many. That's out of date to many. That's because of what we've become as a society.

We are a sexually impure society. There's always been sexual impurity since the fall of Man. The sad thing is today it's accepted.

I can remember there was a girl, she was a couple years older than me and lived across the street from us where I was growing up. She got pregnant. I never saw her again. I don't know what happened to her. Nothing was said, but I never saw her again. Her parents sent her away. I'm not saying that's right. I'm just bringing that up to show the difference. There's a big difference between that and what we have today. What we have today is, "We're going to defend it." There's no defense. It's wrong, it's impure, but it's become accepted today.

We will teach on homosexuality in a future lessons. I stand here and I'll tell you; I may be with the Lord by the time it happens; but I tell you if the Lord doesn't come back, homosexuality will be accepted in Baptist Churches. It will be defended. It'll get in the same way that all other sexual impurity gets in. Someone's child or someone's grandchild that's a church member. People say, "Oh, that will never happen." That's what they said about divorce and remarriage. It'll happen. That's what they said about a lot of things. It will happen and will always get in the same way. It will happen. I hope I'm not here when it does, but it's going to happen.

Sex outside of marriage is always illicit. It's always a defilement. It's plainly stated in the seventh commandment. "*Thou shall not commit adultery.*" That command prohibits all sexual expressions, gestures, advancements, or acts outside the realm of husband and wife.

Adultery is a husband or wife seeking happiness and sexual satisfaction through someone other than their spouse. That's adultery. It is sexual relations between a married man and someone other than his wife or married woman and someone other than her husband. That's adultery. Such is forbidden, plainly condemned, throughout the word of God. Sexual satisfaction is not to be sought, is not to be promoted outside of husband and wife. For someone to say, "Well, if

they would have been a better wife or if they would have been a better husband.” Stop! Just stop! That's nonsense. People have to take some responsibility for their acts. Quit blaming everyone else. They have to take responsibility.

Under the umbrella of adultery is fornication. It's the same act but there is a difference. Fornication is sexual relations between unmarried people. Adultery involves married people. If a man who was married, has sexual relations with a woman who is not married, he's committing adultery, she's committing fornication. Same act, but different terminologies. You say, “Well, what's the point?” It's a big point when you come to the sermon on the mount and Jesus speaks upon the subject of divorce. That's where fornication comes in; people need to understand the difference between the two. Both adultery and fornication are condemned throughout all the word of God.

What is so sad today is not just that it's so common, and it is, but it's approved of by many of God's people. They won't come out and say verbally, “I approve of sexual relations outside of marriage,” but they approve of it with their actions. They will go out of their way to tell you they don't approve, but they do.

In 1st Corinthians 6:13, the latter part of the verse, “*Now the body [is] not for fornication,*” These people who say, “It's my body. I can have sexual relations with whoever I want.” Well, the Bible says the body is not for fornication. The body is for the Lord. It's not for impurity. Verse 18 says, “Flee fornication.” Flee it, don't play around with it. Don't play around with that which leads to it. You do not put yourself in those positions. Someone will say, “Well I'm strong and I'm spiritually mature enough to be in that position.” The very fact that you put yourself in that position shows that you're spiritually immature.

Notice Ephesians 5:3, “*But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*” It's not becoming of the child of God. It should not once be named amongst us.

1st Thessalonians 4:3-4, “*For this is the will of God,*

[even] your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: [Same umbrella adultery and fornication] That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel [These bodies] in sanctification and honour;” We have that word again “honor.” That which glorifies God.

In Hebrews 13:4, “*Marriage [is] honourable in all, and the bed [The marriage bed.] undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*” The lie of safe sex has been propagated for decades, but here's the truth. There is no safe sex outside of the God set boundaries of husband and wife.

Both adultery and fornication are widely accepted today. Marriage is honorable. But God gave them over to dishonor their bodies between themselves. Fornication and adultery, sexual impurity is a result of a depraved heart. The problem is not “everyone else is doing it.” I mean that's a problem, but that's not the root problem.

The problem is a heart problem. In Mark 7 beginning with verse 19, the Pharisees are upset because someone wasn't washing their hands. “*Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*” Not unwashed hands but it's what comes out of the heart. “*For from within, out of the heart of men, [And may I say it cannot come out of the heart of men if it's not in the heart of man] proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, ...*” It goes on and mentions many sins. They proceed from the heart. In Galatians 5:19-21 it says one of the works of the flesh is adultery and fornication.

Both adultery and fornication are destructive. People don't seem to understand that today. There's dysfunction everywhere. Families are dysfunctional and much of it is due to the fact that God's boundaries have been ignored. They don't make the connection. They think they've just had a run of bad luck. No, you've had a run of sin. You've disobeyed God. Now you have children by multiple people and the whole family unit is a mess. They want to blame it

on everybody and everything else. That's what I mean by "it's accepted" today. People don't make the connection that it's destructive. Anything outside of the bounds that God has set is going to cause destruction, is going to lead to dysfunction.

Beginning in Proverbs 5:1, the first few verses just show the destruction. "*My son, attend unto my wisdom, [and] bow thine ear to my understanding: That thou mayest regard discretion, and [that] thy lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb,*" Oh they seem so harmless. "*and her mouth [is] smoother than oil: But her end ...*" People need to understand there are consequences. There are consequences to actions. "*But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.*" Sounds destructive and harmful to me. "*Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, [that] thou canst not know [them]. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her,*" That's the remedy. Far from her. As far as you can get. You do not play with this. "*... and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour [There it is again.] unto others, and thy years unto the cruel.*" It's destructive.

Verse 10, "*Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth;*" It leads to poverty. A brother read a verse about that this morning. "*... and thy labours [be] in the house of a stranger;*" It's enslaving. I'm talking about sexual impurity. It's true of all sin. "*And thou mourn at the last,*" It doesn't bring happiness. How many times people say, "Well, it just makes me happy." It might in the moment, but misery is coming. "*... when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,*" It's destructive.

In Proverbs 7, there are the same warnings. Solomon, of course, fell into these sins. Solomon is writing to his son about his (Solomon's) own mistakes (his sins) and the misery that brought him. If you fall into these sins, at least have enough sense to warn others. Proverbs 7:5, "*That*

they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger [which] flattereth with her words.” The Bible uses *woman*, but it works both ways. “*For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,*” Okay, get the picture; Solomon is looking out his window, looking out into the street. Here's what he saw. “*And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,*” How many young men are void of understanding? “*Passing through the street near her corner;*” Remove thy way far from her. This man's void of understanding. He goes near to her corner. “*... and he went the way to her house,*” Notice the progression. He went near her corner, and he wound up at her house. “*In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And behold there met him a woman. With the attire of a harlot.*” There is such a thing as the attire of a harlot. Why would any father want their daughter to wear the attire of a harlot is beyond me. “*... and subtil of heart. (She [is] loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: She can't stay put. ... now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, [and] with an impudent face said unto him,*” Someone will say, “Well, it's her fault. She's the one who took the initiative.” He went near her corner and did so on purpose. He's at fault. I'm not saying she isn't, but he's responsible as well. “*[I have] peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved [works], with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning:*” That is the mindset of many. Let us take our fill. “*... let us solace ourselves with loves.*” Let us comfort ourselves. This is so enjoyable. “*For the goodman [is] not at home,*” My husband is not at home. “*... he is gone a long journey:*” Not only is he not at home, I know he's not going to be home for a while. “*He hath taken a bag of money with him, [and] will come home at the day appointed.*” So she knew when to

expect him. *“With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter; [Destructive] or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it [is] for his life. You’ll ruin your life. Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong [men] have been slain by her. Her house [is] the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.*

Sexual impurity is destruction. It is destructive to life. It'll ruin individuals. It will destroy the family unit. It is draining upon finances. Proverbs 6:26, *“For by means of a whorish woman [a man is brought] to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.”* The prodigal son in Luke 15:30 spent all of his living upon harlots. It'll drain you financially. There are people today who have crossed, they have violated, they have ignored God's set boundaries. They're now paying alimony to who knows how many and child support to who knows how many children and they ought to. They can never get out of the hole. “Oh, I feel so bad for him. They just had it so rough.” Why do they have it so rough? Because that's what sin does. That's what the Bible says. They're going to be poor. They're going to be poor most of the time. It's destructive.

The same thing here in Romans 1:24, is it's accepted today. It's the norm. It's the normal thing. That's where we are here in Romans 1. God just gave them over. When the norm is the violation of God's boundaries, you've got a society sinking fast in destruction, and that's where we are today.

Chapter 7 - God Gave Them Up - Part 3

Continuing in Romans 1:24, *“Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:”* We have come to the part of the cycle of sexual immorality, which is not only the reason for God's judgment, but it is also an aspect of God's judgment. He just gives them up to where their hearts lust will take them. That of course brings more reasons for God to judge. That's the whole cycle here in Romans 1.

In the last lesson, we learned that adultery and fornication is destructive. We see that in Proverbs and illustrated in many ways throughout the word of God. Certainly if you open your eyes and look around, you see it illustrated all around you. It's destructive and draining upon finances. If you look around today at people you know, adultery and fornication has drained their finances, put them in a financial bind, maybe for their entire life. There are consequences to adultery and fornication.

Adultery and fornication are also ensnaring. It brings a trap in one's life, which is illustrated throughout the word of God. Again if you look around, you see people ensnared everywhere, due to adultery and fornication. Life isn't easy for them. In Proverbs 23:27, *“For a whore [is] a deep ditch; [Not easy to get out of] and a strange woman [is] a narrow pit.”* Many are stuck in a very deep ditch. That's where they live due to their own sins. There are and have been people who have committed adultery and fornication, that didn't set out that day to do that. People will say all the time, “I didn't mean for it to happen.” That may be so, but that doesn't do away with the consequences of such. It's ensnaring, it's degrading, shameful.

Jeremiah 5:7-8 is the cycle of sexual immorality, *“... thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by [them that are] no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.”* This is willful. *“They were [as] fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.”* That's part of sexual immorality. Everyone “neighed” or

bellowed after his neighbor's wife. We've tried to stress in the past two lessons, it's her husband, his wife. That's the bounds that God has set. Adultery and fornication impairs the mind. In Hosea 4:11 it says, "*Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.*"

From all of this there is the violation of the marriage bed. The lust of depraved man leads to all sorts of issues, all sorts of problems and now, as Romans chapter 1 tells, there is a cycle of sexual immorality. In other words, there's a continuance of violating the marriage bed.

Romans 1, teaches that, if a society continues long enough in any sin, it eventually becomes an amoral society. Immersion in immorality leads to amorality. Though there is some common ground between immorality and amorality, they're not the same. There's no question we are in an amoral society, an amoral culture, which is really worse immorality. It's part of this cycle. Where there is amorality you can be sure there's much immorality. There is a distinction in that. not all immorality is amoral, but all amorality is immoral. Rampant immorality leads to amorality, which leads to more and more immorality. That's the cycle we see in Romans 1.

Amorality is the failure to conform to God's standards and principles of morality. Any violation of God's principles of morality is immoral. We realize the world does not think that way and the reason is because they *are* immoral. The truth is any violation of God's standard of purity, which is husband and wife, is immorality. Amorality is a lack of moral sense and understanding of morals. There's a big difference. For example, someone can commit an act of immorality, and immediately feel guilty, feel dirty. They confess and say, "Lord, forgive me." They've committed immorality and they feel this guilt. An amoral person doesn't see anything wrong with it to begin with. That's a big difference. They have no moral compass. That's where we are today.

How did we get there? The same way any society gets there is a continuance in immorality. You continue long

enough, you become hardened to it. It becomes the norm, the custom. "It's what everybody's doing. Everybody does it. There's nothing wrong with it." That's an amoral society. That's why you can sit down with people today, and show them, "This is wrong." They don't see it. They have no understanding of God's standards. What is that going to lead to? It's going to lead to more immorality and more immorality leads to more amorality. It's a horrible cycle for a nation or society to be caught in.

Amorality is basically having no moral standards or very, very few; having no moral restraints or principles; no moral restraints whatsoever. People think, "This is my right to live in adultery and fornication." It's unawareness of, an indifference towards God's principles. You can show someone, "This is wrong," and they say, "I don't see anything wrong with it." They're amoral. They're in serious trouble. It's apathy concerning questions of right or wrong. If you're in amorality long enough pretty soon there is no right or wrong. There's no "compass", no standard.

Amorality is worse than immorality in the sense that it is the advanced stage of immorality and the result of prolonged and persistent immorality. It is where we are as a society and what Romans 1:24 is talking about. Society is in an advanced stage of immorality.

Immorality and amorality have existed since the fall. It's not like we're the first society that has reached amorality. Many societies throughout history have become amoral. But we're dealing with something even greater because we're in the last days when things get worse and worse. Amorality just gets worse.

I just can't stress it enough, people have no moral compass. "I don't think it's wrong. Therefore, it's not wrong. You may think it's wrong. That makes it wrong for you, but I don't see it as wrong, therefore, it's not wrong for me." That's where we are today, in an amoral society, which is the result of God turning a people over to their own fleshly desires. Then, when they commit more immorality, which brings more amorality, that leads to further reason for God's

judgment. We are in this cycle that is going to lead to ruin.

A good example of amorality is Judges 21:25, "*In those days [there was] no king in Israel: [That is there was no authority. What was the result?] every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes.*"

Today people will violate the marriage bed and see nothing wrong with it. They will violate the marriage bed during marriage. That's adultery. They will do it before marriage. That's fornication. And they see nothing wrong with it. Nothing whatsoever. There are parents who see nothing wrong with it in their children or their grandchildren. Oh, they might give it some lip service, and say, "Well, we don't approve," but they help them out in every way possible. Don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying that we're not to help people. But, you better be careful that your help is not taken as an approval of what they've done. You better be careful that your help does not feed the problem.

(Going off subject a little, I'd like to point out that a lot of the problems that are being fed today are with a lot of the millennial's. The situation has been created by parents or siblings. People say, "Can you believe these millennial's and this X generation? Can you believe it?" Parents, look in the mirror, because a lot of it's been fed and created by you and continues to be fed. You've got a son or a daughter who is 30 years old, and you're still paying their phone bill. You are feeding the problem. You're creating a problem. "I just wish they would grow up." Get out of the way and they might. They might not, but get out of the way.)

An amoral society and culture is one in which right and wrong are categories with no real meaning. People even say, "Well, what's right? What's wrong?" Those two words mean nothing to them. That is an amoral Society. In an amoral society and culture biblical absolutes are done away with. Today, people can't stand to hear the Bible quoted. "The Bible says that's wrong." However, in their mind biblical absolutes mean absolutely nothing. There is no such thing as absolutes because they have been done away with, and people just do what's right in their own eyes, and

establish their own standards. You have immorality leading to amorality and amorality begins to establish its own standards, which are no standards.

Remember we spent a lot of time on humanism. An amoral society and culture is the result of humanism. Humanism is atheistic, evolutional in its thinking; leads to individualism, which feeds this amoral society. In an amoral society or culture people have lost sight of or they are completely ignorant of biblical absolutes. The result is the mind is polluted with perverted and anti-god philosophies and ideas, and everything is relative or subjective. That brings us to relativity and subjectivity.

Relativity is the absence of standards. Subjectivity means that standards are based upon personal feelings, personal opinions, personal circumstances. Circumstances determine what is sexually pure and what is not. Someone says, "My wife doesn't treat me right or my husband doesn't treat me right, therefore I have the right to go beyond the marriage bed." That's subjectivity. It's an excuse. The cycle continues as long as you excuse behavior, whatever the behavior is, goes into a cycle and that cycle is hard to break.

When immorality is practiced for an extended period of time, the result is "comfort" is developed with such and becomes the norm. With a lot of people today, there has been a comfort developed with the sexual impurity described in Romans 1:24 and it has become the norm. It is not the norm today for husband and wife to be faithful to one another throughout marriage. That's not the norm. That's sad. It's not the norm to abstain until you're married. That's not the norm today. You get in this cycle and pretty soon sin, whatever the sin is; in this case, we're dealing with sexual impurity; it becomes normal.

In the minds of many, we're getting to that stage with homosexuality, if we haven't already. You're in a lot of trouble when sin becomes the norm, whatever the sin is. It becomes the norm so much so that one has no conviction or guilt concerning it. I've had people tell me, "Well, Brother Dan, the Holy Spirit hasn't convicted me that's wrong." It's

shameful, but it doesn't really surprise me. When they say that, they've said a mouthful. They basically admitted that they're not saved and have a lot more problems.

Society and culture are inundated with the message of sexual immorality. Hollywood and advertisers see nothing wrong with it because we're in an amoral society. That's illustrated here in Romans 1.

Continual rejection of God leads to amorality. Amorality leaves a society in ruins. There aren't any examples, in the word of God, that I can recall, where they recover. You get to a point of no return. What you have in an amoral society is a society filled with broken marriages. You tell people today that you've been married 25 years, 30 years, 40 years, 50 years, 60 years. They are shocked, absolutely floored. Some might even ask why. We're in an amoral society. These things are not the norm.

When you have a society filled with broken marriages, you have the disintegration of family. Where you have the disintegration of family, you have a society that is filled with troubled children. You have an epidemic of mental and emotional problems. We hear more today about mental and emotional problems than we've ever heard in our entire life. People say, "Well we're just becoming more understanding." Perhaps that is a small part. The truth is there are more emotional and mental problems than in the past because of amorality, because of sin. When a child doesn't even really know who the parent is because they have so many parents along with so many other problems, as they grow, there's going to be some emotional problems. What's really sad is most of the population is living the same way. Who do these people go to? They have all these emotional problems and they go to someone who's got just as many problems as they do or more. How does it get fixed? Society can't fix it. Only God can fix it. This is where we are today.

There's emotional and mental problems everywhere today. It's going to get worse and worse and worse because it is the result of the dysfunction of an amoral society. Don't

Chapter 7 - God Gave Them Up - Part 3

be so ignorant as to say, “Well, you know, I committed adultery and fornication, but my children aren't affected by it.” Don't be a fool. There's going to be problems, emotionally, all sorts of problems. We have problems that we've never had before. There's going to be problems that we don't even know about yet. It all goes back to sin.

We have come to verses 26 and 27 of Romans 1, in our study. In verse 24 we see, *“God also gave them up.”* Paul goes on to mention sexual impurity, which we've looked at in the last couple lessons. Then in verse 26, *“For this cause.”* Because of sexual impurity and the fact that they changed the truth of God into a lie and began to live for the temporal, *“For this cause God gave them up,”* for the second time. This is more of God's abandoning wrath. *“God gave them up unto vile affections,”* and goes on to explain, *“... for even.”* Even is a point of emphasis, to emphasize *“... their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”* or which was fitting.

Verse 26 shows one of the results of God's abandoning wrath (allowing men to follow the lust of the hearts,) brings us to degradation. *“For this cause,”* because of what was said in verses 24 and 25, *God gave them up.* God's abandoning wrath is what we as a nation, and pretty much the whole world, is under today. God, no longer restrains man. We see that's what he did back in Genesis 6, just prior to the flood, God just let man go. The result was the cataclysmic wrath of God.

Sin is the reason for this aspect of God's wrath. More sin is the result. That's where we are today. We see the abandoning wrath of God upon a society. The reason is sin, and the result of that abandoning wrath is more sin. More sin becomes the next cause of God's wrath. Sin is the consequence of more and more and more sin. What Romans 1 is teaching us is the results of the abandoning wrath of God, which is God just simply leaving man to follow his depraved heart.

Paul goes on to describe lesbianism and homosexuality. These are the result of the wrath of God. People will say, *“God is going to judge homosexuality.”* Yes, he is! Let there be no doubt. God will judge a nation

for that sin. He always has. I think something Christianity misses is ***homosexuality and lesbianism is the wrath of God***. That's what Romans 1, is teaching us. God gave them up. That's the abandoning wrath of God. The result is homosexuality and lesbianism. Homosexuality and lesbianism are not merely alternative lifestyles. Only fools will believe that these are alternative lifestyles.

Let's look at Paul's description of this sin. First of all, it is referred to as depraved feelings and a depraved disposition. Notice verse 26 says, "*God gave them up unto vile affections.*" God didn't put the vile affections there, God gave them up to their own vile affections. He removed the restraints. It is referred to as vile affections. They can call it "gay". God says it's vile affections.

The word vile means corrupt, depraved. Vile affections are corrupt, depraved affections. Vile is that which is twisted, something that is gross, vulgar, and obscene. It's something that normal people would refer to as disgusting. Only fools professing themselves to be wise call it something else. Vile affections is that which is abhorrent, that which is repulsive and revolting. Homosexuality and lesbianism are the exercise of vile affections. It is the manifestation of vile affections. Again, only those who have become fools, professing themselves to be wise, will think that this is appropriate, will accommodate it, exalt and celebrate it. Professing themselves to be wise they became fools and began to celebrate and exalt vile affections. That's where we are today. Those who are against homosexuality are scared to death to say anything, because they don't want to be labeled as a hate monger or many other things. First of all it's referred to as vile affections. "Well, I have such strong feelings toward this person." Well that would fall under the category of affections. But it's vile. I'm not denying that a man may have affections for another man or woman for woman, but it's vile. It's vile affections.

Paul spends time telling us that it is unnatural. This is what the world needs to understand today. It's unnatural. It is an exchange for the natural. Notice again verse 26,

where we see "... *women did change the natural use.*" There is something that's natural, but it's not lesbianism. "*Women did change the natural use.*" Then in verse 27, "... *and likewise also the men.*" Then notice what it says, "... *leaving the natural.*" There is a change of the natural use, and a leaving of the natural. Notice two verbs in verse 26, "*change*", and in verse 27, "*leaving*". You say, "Well, what's the point?" **It describes a voluntary act.** In verse 26 the women did voluntarily change the natural use. It's a verb. A verb is a voluntary act. We see in verse 27 the men leaving. They choose to do so. This nonsense about "They can't help it," is a lie, because they change. That's something you do on purpose, you change something. They leave. That's something you do on purpose. The words "change" and "leaving" describe a voluntary act. They move from what is natural to what is unnatural. Change the natural use, leaving the natural. Those are descriptive of homosexuality. Change the natural use, leaving the natural.

We say this is vile affections and it is unnatural. It is changing the natural, it is leaving the natural. It's not the norm. It's never to be considered the norm. I don't care who it is, it's not to be considered the norm.

Paul goes on in verse 26. Notice the last two words of verse 26, "*against nature.*" It is against nature or against the natural. It is an exchange for the natural, "*For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is **against nature:** And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman,*" In Jude verse 7 notice, "*Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner; giving themselves over to fornication, [That's a natural sin.] and going after strange flesh, ...*" That's referring to homosexuality. That which is strange is not normal. Going after strange flesh is not normal. Notice, also, he puts a difference here between fornication and strange flesh. He mentions them as separate. Fornication and then going after strange flesh. "... *are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*"

Chapter 7 - God Gave Them Up - Part 4

From these verses in Romans 1:26-27, and Jude verse 7, it is clearly stated that homosexuality is not natural. God's inspired word takes homosexuality and lesbianism out of the realm of the natural. Don't compare it with the natural. Don't compare it with natural sins. God takes it out of the realm of the natural or the norm. Homosexuality and lesbianism are not natural.

There is a great push today to get people to buy into that homosexuality and lesbianism is natural. Many of God's people have bought into it. I'm not saying that many of God's people have accepted homosexuality. Not yet, but it's coming. They have bought into, to a large degree, and I will show this, that it is natural. They bought into it without even knowing it.

God takes it out of the realm of the natural. Only those who have become fools will call this natural. There's nothing natural about it. There's nothing normal about it. I've heard many of God's people and even Pastors say, "Well, homosexuality, if you think about it, it is really is no different than adultery and fornication." This is what homosexuals say! It's them speaking! You bought into a lie. You realize the danger of that statement? You're making it natural, you're saying it's no different. You're comparing apples and oranges. I've heard people, I've heard a couple pastors say, "Well, we receive people who have been guilty of adultery and fornication and homosexuality is no different." They stop short of coming right out and saying, "We should receive the homosexual," but it's coming. Is that what they're saying? That's exactly what they're saying. "We receive the adulterer and the fornicator, those who've been guilty of those sins and they have been forgiven and we receive them. Homosexuality is no different." Oh, but it is different.

Fornication is a natural sin. It's in the realm of things that are "natural". That doesn't lessen the fact that it's a sin. Homosexuality is taken out of the realm of natural. You're dealing with something completely different here. You have natural, you have unnatural. Don't put them in the same

category. That's where many of God's people, the Lord's churches, are in great error today. It's going to lead to an acceptance of it.

Such a statement, "It's no different," is grievously and dangerously erroneous. Paul makes clear verse 26 and 27, and Jude makes clear **the fact** that homosexuality and lesbianism are an exchange. It is an exchange of the natural for the unnatural and puts them in a different class of sin. I've heard people say, "Well you can't classify sin. All sin is sin." Yes, it is. I'm not denying that. I believe the Bible does classify sin. Not all sin is the same. Someone who says, "All sin is the same," hasn't really thought that through. They're saying that telling a lie is the same as murdering someone. I don't think so. Does that make telling a lie not sin? NO! But it's not the same. All sin is sin, but not all sin is the same. To think that all sin is the same is a dangerous place to fall into. That presents so many problems that it's just almost beyond belief.

A common question is, "Is homosexuality natural?" Many will answer that question, a liberal will say, "Well define natural." My reply is, "I'm glad you said that." In the context of what we're talking about (homosexuality), God defines natural. Romans 1:27 says, "*men leaving the **natural** use of the woman.*" What is natural? Men and women. That's natural. To leave that is what? Unnatural. This is very simple, but it's not what people want to hear. God defines **natural** as "*men ... the natural use of the woman.*" (And you have to keep stressing nowadays that "men" means male as God created them.) Adultery and fornication are terrible sins and we've studied that in the past few lessons. But they are natural sins. Homosexuality is something in a different realm. Don't make adultery and fornication the same as homosexuality. God doesn't.

When you get on this subject, people will say, "Well that's the Old Testament." Yes it is and it's still God's word. We just read very plainly what is stated in the New Testament. In Leviticus 18:22, "*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: ...*" There's the natural.

Mankind with womankind. “*Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind,*” [Meaning in the same way.] *it is abomination.* In Leviticus 20:13 it says, “*If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman,*” As he lieth with a woman is natural. We’re defining natural here, which is man and woman. “... *both of them have committed an abomination:*” They haven’t committed fornication. Fornication is between man and woman. They have committed an abomination. “... *they shall surely be put to death; their blood [shall be] upon them.*” What is natural? Mankind with womankind is natural. If someone tries to defend homosexuality by saying it’s natural, they’re sick individuals. It’s not natural.

Natural can be defined by design. What is God’s design? Man and woman. It’s got some bounds. A man with his own wife, a wife with her own husband. Homosexuality and lesbianism are not natural. They are in the class of unnatural sins.

I had a discussion at the Thanksgiving conference in Paducah. We got onto this subject because there was an individual whom I overheard. I was not part of the conversation, but he was making homosexuality the same sin as fornication and adultery. I said, “Brother you’re wrong and you are dangerously wrong.” Then we got into the subject of it being a different class of sin. It’s an unnatural sin. It is true that all sin is sin. We believe that whole heartedly. But not all sin is the same. It is true that all sin is sin in God’s eyes. But not all sin is the same in God’s eyes. We will look into some verses about that in the next lesson.

I’m telling you it’s scary. You talk to most young people and it’s scary. I listened to pastors, church members, and they’ve fallen into this trap. Where does it stop? You know where it stops. It’s going to be accepted. That’s what I want to establish in this lesson. I’m not saying everybody’s going to accept it, I’m not saying all the Lord’s churches are going to accept it. I believe something will and it’s already starting because of these comments.

There’s nothing natural about homosexuality.

We see the advancement of sin throughout Romans 1. While it can be applied to individuals, I believe it mostly applies to what becomes of a society, a nation once God just lifts his restraining hand.

We began studying Romans 1:26-27 in the last lesson. The subject, of course, is homosexuality. There's a lot said today on the subject of homosexuality. A lot of lies are being told in order to sell it to the public. Sadly *many* have bought it. Thankfully, it's not yet to the point where *most* have bought into it. Those who have not bought into it are scared to death to say anything because they don't want to be labeled a bigot or whatever. Nevertheless, the scriptures are very clear on the subject. We're not to hate the sinner. We are to hate sin. We are to love them enough to pray for them that God would get a hold of them. There is a fine line there. It's an easy line to cross. We have to be careful in that regard.

In reviewing the previous lesson, Paul starts off in verse 26 with giving his description of homosexuality, calling it *vile affections*. That's where Paul begins, and a lot of them get upset. "Well, you're saying our love isn't real." That's not the issue. If it is real it's vile. Paul goes on to say that it's unnatural. There's nothing normal about it, nothing natural about it. It is unnatural and it is willful. It is an unnatural exchange for the natural. He expresses this a couple times in a couple different ways. In verse 26, "... *their women did change* [They did this, they did this willfully.] *the natural use* [There is a natural use.] *into that which is against nature*: [Against that which is natural.]" This is repeated in verse 27, this time applying to the man, "... *leaving* [Again that's willful] *the natural use of the woman*." Jude verse 7, speaking upon the same subject, says "... *going after strange flesh*." Strange flesh, means unnatural. It's not the norm.

When the unnatural becomes the norm in a society, or is accepted, or looked at as a norm, you've got a serious problem. That's where we are today. That's why there is such an effort made to get people to see this as natural. But

it's not natural. It doesn't matter who it is. It could be your child, your grandchild, whatever. It doesn't matter. It's unnatural and it's vile.

The question is, what is natural? Leviticus 18:22 says, “*mankind with womankind.*” That's natural. Leviticus 20:13 says, “*mankind with a woman.*” That's natural. Homosexuality is unnatural. If that foundation is removed, that foundation is weakened in someone's mind, they're well on their way to accepting it. Because, if it's natural, why wouldn't you accept it? It's not natural. There's nothing about it that is natural.

Then we ended the last lesson with another danger; that all sin is the same. No, it's not. Our courts don't believe and never have believed, that all transgressions are the same. That's why you have varying degrees of sentencing, because they're not all the same. Murder and stealing are not the same thing. How foolish it is to say homosexuality is just the same as any other sin? What that does is creates a tolerance. These people have an agenda, which they are accomplishing; to accept, to tolerate, to look at homosexuality as normal. “We're no different than you.” I find that quite offensive.

If all sin was the same to God, why does he differentiate it in Scripture? Why does he mention adultery, fornication, stealing? Why is sin characterized all through scripture? There is a list of sins in Romans 1:29-31. If it's all the same, why not just say “*sin*” and leave it at that? Because it is not all the same. Sin has many different characterizations.

All sins are not equal in God's eyes. That in no way means or implies there is such a thing as a little sin. No sin can be little in the eyes of an all holy God. It's not a matter of little sins, big sins. There are no little sins. All sin is big in God's eyes. But it's not all the same and it's not all equal.

In Genesis 13:13, we find there are varying degrees of sin, also. “*But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord, exceedingly.*” Here, sin was *exceedingly*. Not all sin is to the same degree. In Ezekiel 16:51-52,

*“Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; [There are degrees.] but thou hast **multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done. Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed **more abominable than they:** they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters. There's a lot in those verses.***

In Matthew 11:21-24, Jesus is doing the speaking, *“Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.”* He's telling them that the people of Chorazin and Bethsaida are more wicked than Tyre and Sidon. He goes further, *“But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, [That is, they've been blessed beyond measure.] shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, [Speaking of all the works of Christ done in Capernaum.] had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. [In other words, they were more wicked.] But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”* Based on scripture, you cannot say that all sin is the same. It's not. Not all sin is equal in God's eyes.

John chapter 19:11, speaking to Pilot, *“Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power [at all] against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”* If all sin is the same, how can one sin be greater than another? It's not all the same. When we come to homosexuality, it's not the same. It has been classified by scripture as an unnatural sin. We have to understand homosexuality is not equal. It's not natural. You also have to understand homosexuality and lesbianism is not a race of people, because this is the push. It's behavior. There's a big difference. It is an all-out push

today that the public be convinced that homosexuality and lesbianism is the result of birth. If that is so, then it's a race of people. That leads to, as far as the government is concerned, if it's a race, they have certain entitlements. That's why you're put in the classification of a bigot. We're racist. It has nothing to do with race. It's behavior. It's a behavior that affects all races.

This is how Paul presents it. He presents it as a behavior. "I can't help it." But you can. Again in Romans 1:26 and 27, you have the word *change*. That's a behavior. *Leaving*. In Jude verse 7, it's *going after*. All of those words, *change*, *leaving*, *going after*, that's not a race of people. That's a behavior. It's a vile behavior and it's an unnatural behavior. They are willful behaviors. Everywhere you see it in scripture, it's willful behavior.

When God's people think of homosexuality, our minds go to Sodom. Sodom of course was guilty of that behavior. That wasn't the only wicked behavior going on inside them. There were a lot of wicked behaviors going on inside them and homosexuality was one of them and it was very willful. They were extremely bold. You don't have to go back very far in our history where the homosexual movement, as I'll call it, had not a boldness about it. That's why you hear "coming out of the closet". It was something that people hid, but now they are very bold. This is how it was in Sodom, which we're going to see. That's why today you can see it in public. It's probably been a few months ago, I saw two women kiss in the grocery store, right in the aisle. They're very bold. Why do they do that? Because they're hoping that somebody like me, (and it almost worked), is going to say something.

We have to be careful. I'm speaking to myself, as well, because you can become so disgusted with the behavior that you find yourself hating the individual and we're not to do that. It's hard not to sometimes. But we can't cross that line. We just need to pray, "Lord, help them."

Beginning in Genesis 19:4, we read, "*But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom,*

compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them." That's not speaking of just getting acquainted. They almost beat down the door of Lot. That's how aggressive they were. *"And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him,"* You know how you do? You step out the door and you shut the door. That's what he did because these people were aggressive. *"And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man;"* This I can't grasp, I'll never grasp, but it tells us something about the unnatural and the natural. *"... let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes:"* I can't imagine saying something like that, but I believe the purpose of this is to show natural and unnatural. *"... only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said [again], This one [fellow] came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them."* They're upset with Lot because he's standing in their way. Sound familiar? *"And they pressed sore upon the man, [even] Lot, and came near to break the door."* There's strong aggressive desire. *"But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that [were] at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door. And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring [them] out of this place: For we will destroy this place,"* The following verses go on into the Judgment that was coming. What we learn from that passage of scripture is once this sin grows, how aggressive people become, how very bold they become.

They dare you to say something. They're hoping you will. The result is, we become a bit intimidated by it. I'm

just mentioning this briefly. A couple years ago, in Chicago at a fourth of July parade my son said we're going to go to the parade. I said, "Well, that's fine. If they have homosexual floats just know this, I'm not going to keep silent." Sure enough there were three church groups that had these floats. They were at the end of the parade. Here they come. People start clapping. I started quoting scripture loud enough for them to hear me saying repent. There was a policeman, he came walking towards me. I just kept on and all he did was just stand in front of me. That's all he did. Didn't say a word to me about what I was saying. I wasn't being rude or unkind. I was just quoting scripture. What got me that day was all the people that applauded. "Isn't this wonderful." When I started quoting scripture, it was like the Red Sea parting. And people hurried away from me. It would have been wrong for me to throw something at them, but there's nothing wrong with quoting scripture. That's what they need to hear. I believe God can take His word and convict them.

God help us not to be intimidated by the sins of our times. I believe we all probably are to some degree. When it's time, we have to speak out and do it in the right way. They have to know. God help us to do that.

Chapter 7 - God Gave Them Up - Part 6

The last two lessons were on the subject of homosexuality, which I will continue. We have stressed, and it needs to be stressed, that homosexuality is not a natural sin. While it is true that all sin is sin, not all sin is the same. If it was, God would not differentiate it in His word. He wouldn't mention adultery, fornication, or theft, if it's all the same. He would just say sin. Sin is not all the same.

There are categories of sin, two of which are natural and unnatural sins. Homosexuality is an unnatural sin. We have stressed that in the last two lessons. It is important that God's people understand that. All sin is sin, but not all sin is the same, nor is all sin the same in degree. All sin is bad and worse than you and I can even begin to imagine. There's no such thing as a little sin, because all sin is against a Great God. That being said, not all sin is to the same degree. Some sin is worse than others. The Bible makes this very clear.

In the last lesson I began to point out the fact that homosexuality is a behavior. It's unnatural and is not the result of birth. No one is born a homosexual. It's a behavior. If society can convince you that homosexuality is a result of birth, that's more argument to accept it. That would make them a race rather than having a behavior. In our society, race means entitlements. Homosexuality is not a race, it's a willful behavior. Not only is it a behavior, but as it goes on to where the individuals involved in these things become very bold, very aggressive. In Genesis 19, the men of Sodom and Gomorrah were ready to knock down the door of Lot's house. They were very aggressive in their sin. We're there today, and it's going to become more so.

Beginning in Judges 19:17, referring back to Sodom and Gomorrah, it says, *“And when he had lifted up his eyes, he saw a wayfaring man in the street of the city: and the old man said, Whither goest thou? and whence comest thou? And he said unto him, We [are] passing from Bethlehemjudah toward the side of mount Ephraim; from thence [am] I: [That's where he was from.] and I went to Bethlehemjudah, but I [am now] going to the house of the*

LORD; and there [is] no man that receiveth me to house. Yet there is both straw and provender for our asses; and there is bread and wine also for me, and for thy handmaid, and for the young man [which is] with thy servants: [there is] no want of any thing. And the old man said, Peace [be] with thee; howsoever [let] all thy wants [lie] upon me; only lodge not in the street. So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.

[Now] as they were making their hearts merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial,” Certain sons of Belial is an identification with the sin that's about to be mentioned. “... beset the house round about, [and] beat at the door; and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him. And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, [nay], I pray you, do not [so] wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.

Three things you learn; it's wicked, foolish, and it is the act of the sons of Belial. People say, “Well, I know this man who's guilty of this sin and he's a Christian.” No, he isn't. He's a son of Belial. He's not Christian. He's not following Christ. I've heard some say, “Well, they're just as much a Christians as I am.” Well, that may be so. Both of you are not Christian. They are not Christian, they are sons of Belial.

This sin is referred to as shameful and perverse. In Romans 1:27, you read, “*working that which is unseemly.*” What does that mean? It means that which is shameful. They might say, “Well, I don't feel any shame at all.” Maybe you don't, but that doesn't change what the Bible says about it. It's unseemly. It's unnatural, shameful. The word unseemly also means repulsive. It's sickening. It ought to make us sick. I'm not ashamed to say that it's sickening. That is what it is. It's inappropriate.

Unseemly means it's not in accord with established standards. That's why they're trying to re-establish the

standards, so that it will be in accord with the standards. There needs to be a group of people who are not buying into the new standards. That needs to be us.

It is that which is perverse. Only those who have become fools would think there's no shame in this sin. When homosexuality and lesbianism are accepted, applauded, and rampant in a society, something is wrong. When someone, male and female, has been married for 60 years, it's no big deal. But a man and man just got married and everybody's applauding, and their heroes. That is a sick society. That is a society already under the judgment of God. When homosexuality is accepted, applauded, and rampant, it is a sure sign of the wrath of God. In every case in the Old Testament, this sin results in the cataclysmic wrath of God as well.

Homosexuality is an unnatural behavior. The scriptures teach that NOWHERE is ANY sin approved and nowhere is THIS SIN approved. It's always condemned. Same-sex relationships in the Bible were always, without exception, condemned. Read Leviticus 18:22, and Leviticus 20:13. It is wicked. It is sinful. In Genesis 13:13 and Genesis 18:20, both those scriptures referring to Sodom and Gomorrah, say the same thing.

People will be quick to point out today that, "You do know that homosexuality wasn't the only sin of Sodom and Gomorrah." Yes, we're very well aware of that. There were other sins, but don't put those other sins on the same level. There was one sin that led to the destroying wrath of God.

It's wicked and it's sinful, but it's not *just* wicked and sinful. In Genesis 13:13, "*But the men of Sodom [were] wicked and sinners before the LORD,*" You could put a period there and you would have a complete thought, a complete sentence. But that's not where the period is, that's not where the sentence ends. There is another word, "*exceedingly.*" That word tells us that there are degrees. They were wicked and sinners, *exceedingly.* *Exceeding* something else.

In Genesis 18:20, it says, "*And the LORD said,*

Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;” The word **very** implies there is a degree being spoken of, there's a comparison, and it is *very* grievous. All sin is grievous, more grievous than any of us realize. This sin, however, is said to be **very** *grievous*. It's even worse! There are no little sins, but there is a degree. It's very grievous, very evil, offensive, disgusting, vile, despicable.

Someone may say, “Well you're talking about my grandson or granddaughter.” “You're talking about my son.” It doesn't matter! God's people had better wake up. It does not matter that it may be a family member. It's *very* grievous. It's beyond reason.

You may, and most of us probably do, know people that are involved in this sin. Don't fall into the trap, “Well, you know, I go back to when they were 8 years old and you know things happen.” No! You're starting to make excuses. You're starting to try to lessen the degree of the abomination. You're heading down the wrong path. Nothing good can come out of it. Don't go there. I don't care who it is that's involved in the sin. It's extreme. It's very grievous. It doesn't matter who it is. “Well, it's in our family.” It is probably in most families today. It's in my family. If you look in your family, it's there somewhere.

People think we've got to start making adjustments. No, you don't. You don't make adjustments. It's still the same sin. “Well, you know we'll get in trouble.” Oh well. “We'll hurt their feelings.” Oh well. It is still the same sin.

Reading again in Romans 1:26-27, “*For this cause [God is going to state a reason.] God gave them up [Turned them over to themselves.] unto vile affections: [Then result of God giving them up.] for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. [Or fitting.]*”

In the last three lessons, we have been looking at this section of Romans 1, that addresses the subject of homosexuality. It's vividly described, in verse 26 as *vile affections*, that it is an unnatural sin. We've put much emphasis upon that because there are many today who are trying to make it natural. There's nothing natural about it. We have to understand in these days of this push to make it natural, that it is an unnatural sin.

It's important for you and I to understand this because it's not your ordinary sin. If it were then God would not address certain sins; murder, adultery, fornication, and stealing. He puts them in categories. Even our society does that. Not all crime is the same. They're different. All crime is against the law, but that doesn't make them the same.

There's this group of people that's out there today in Christendom, who want to tell us that all sin is the same. Well, it's not. All you have to do is read your Bible and you'll know that. All you have to do is look around at society and you know that all sin is not the same. Someone will say homosexuality is no different than any other sin. Oh, but it is. It's in the classification of an unnatural sin.

Homosexuality is referred to in the Bible as shameful and perverse. In verse Romans 1:27, it is referred to as unseemly. That means that it's shameful, repulsive, inappropriate, being against nature, not in accord with God's established standards. I don't mean man's standards, I mean God's standards. It's unseemly and it is erroneous, against God.

When the scriptures speak upon this subject, all

mention of same-sex relationships in the Bible are condemned all the time. They are condemned in a very strong and very plain way. Specifically, in Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, it says homosexuality is wicked. Genesis 13:13, and Genesis 18:20, it says it is *exceedingly* wicked. It exceeds the normal wickedness of sin. Genesis 18:20 also says homosexuality is very grievous, meaning to a high degree. A society is in trouble when people do not look at it as offensive and disgusting. They want to tell us it's because we're not intelligent enough. This isn't a matter of intelligence. From these verses, it's clear that homosexuality, is evil, disgusting, vile, despicable, repulsive, contrary to God, contrary to nature. It is an abomination according to Leviticus 18:22, which says, "*Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination.*" Abomination is used several times in the word of God. It speaks of extreme disgust. God has disgust toward all sin, of course, but an abomination is extreme disgust and hatred for the sin. It's that which is detestable and regardless of the view and perception of society regarding homosexuality, it's an abomination in the sight of God.

I'm not so sure most of society is not disgusted by this sin. I think probably most of society still sees it as disgusting. But they are afraid to say so. They are scared to death to say so because they don't want to be labeled. Unless the Lord comes soon, as time passes and it's not spoken out against, it will be the norm. Pretty soon very, very few will be disgusted by it. I believe we're already seeing that we are a society with a lot of mental disorders. It's only going to increase. As a result of everything that's going on, you're going to have children raised in this kind of thing, you're looking at an epidemic of mental illness in our society. It is a result of sin.

Homosexuality is of the devil. It's satanic. To say that should not upset God's people. It is in a different classification. There is a sense in which all sin is of the devil, of course. In Judges 19:22, referring to Sodom and Gomorrah, it says, [*Now*] *as they were making their hearts*

merry, behold, the men of the city, certain sons of Belial,” They are identified. They are the sons of Belial. “... *beset the house round about, [and] beat at the door, and spake to the master of the house, the old man, saying, Bring forth the man that came into thine house, that we may know him.”*

The term, “the sons of Belial,” speaks of that which is very wicked, lawless, but also ungovernable. People will say, “I can’t help it.” Then they will advance the narrative by saying, “I was born this way.” That’s where they’re wrong. It is, however, perhaps true, that they cannot help it, because they are likely “the sons of Belial.” The sons of Belial were ungovernable. Demonic activity is ungovernable. What does that mean? It means that these individuals were under the influence and the direction of Satan. In 2nd Corinthians 6:15, the question is asked, “*And what concord [Meaning agreement, harmony, compatibility.] hath Christ with Belial?*” There is no compatibility between Christ and Belial. There is a group of homosexuals who claim to be Christian. Based on 2nd Corinthians 6:15, that can’t be. Christian has compatibility with Christ, agreement, harmony with Christ, but there is no concord between Belial and Christ.

Homosexuality is foolishness. In Judges 19:23, it says, “*And the man, the master of the house, went out unto them, and said unto them, Nay, my brethren, [nay], I pray you, do not [so] wickedly; seeing that this man is come into mine house, do not this folly.*” The word *folly* means do not this depravity, this which is senseless, disgraceful, immoral, and profane. Do not this folly.

Homosexuality is condemned by God. 2nd Peter 2:6, “*And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;*” All sin is anti-God. So it is with homosexuality.

In 1st Timothy 1:9-10, it says that homosexuality is contrary to sound doctrine. What does that mean? It means that it is the opposite, it is against sound doctrine or valid teaching. It’s illogical. The reason it’s illogical is because

it's against nature.

In Romans 1, homosexuality is a sin that results from man's depravity. God gave them up to the lust of their own hearts. They are not born this way. Homosexuality is not a race. The Bible makes it very clear that it is a lifestyle, a behavior that all races have. It is in every race. It is a sinful behavior, a sinful lifestyle. It's not merely an alternative lifestyle. It's much, much more.

We need to understand there is a fine line between hating a sin and hating the individual. We as God's people have to be careful that we don't cross that line. We're not to hate the individual. We are to pray for them that God would deliver them. We are to be a testimony to them. That line between hating the sin and hating the individuals involved in sin is easily crossed. That's why we have to guard our own hearts so that we do not cross that line. For those who are caught up in this sin, we ought to want the Lord to save their soul. That will fix the problem. That's what we ought to pray. I know people who prayed, "Lord strike them dead." Aren't you glad God didn't do that to you? He could do it to any one of us because all sin is sin. We need to pray for the Lord to be merciful. "Deliver them from this sin."

Know this, that homosexuality is the result of the judgment of God, and it's going to lead to a greater judgment from God.