

WHEN GOD LETS GO PART THREE

ROMANS 1:24-32

MAN'S SINFULNESS EXPRESSED

"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, 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" (Romans 1:26-27).

In our last two lessons we examined verses 24-25, Man's Sinfulness Stated. In this lesson we will examine Man's Sinfulness Expressed.

Paul begins his narrative in verse 26 by using the phrase "For this cause." This phrase refers back to the action of verses 24-25. And because of man's rejection of the true God, and his making of gods of his own choosing, and then worshiping the creature rather than the Creator, "God gave them up unto vile affections."

For the second time the apostle mentions God's abandonment of sinful mankind. This time "God gave them up unto vile affections." The phrase vile affections can mean degrading passions, which is identified in these two verses as homosexuality - the ultimate expression of man's moral degeneracy.

Concerning the language of the text, one writer said, "Paul uses homosexuality, the most degrading and repulsive of all passions. In their freedom from God's truth men turned to perversion and even inversion of the created order. In the end their humanism resulted in the dehumanization of each of them. Perversion is the illicit and twisted expression of that which is God-given and natural. Homosexuality, on the other hand, is inversion, the expression of that which is neither God-given nor natural. When man forsakes the Author of nature, he inevitably forsakes the order of nature."

Paul in our text uses the order of women first. He does this for a reason. Read carefully: "for even their women [females] did change the natural use into which is against nature." Did you pick up on the word "even?" In this text it is a word for alarm, or something worthy of careful thought. Throughout history, and in the ancient world, females were almost always the last to be affected in the decay of morals. But, when they forsake the God of nature, "even" they will "change" their "natural" function with a man to "that which is against nature" - or turn to that which is unnatural.

"And likewise also the men [males], 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."



In this case of both, women and men in verses 26-27 I bracketed the words. I did this for the reason of what teachers of the Greek language tell us concerning these two words. Greek lexicons tell us that in our text Paul uses a different Greek term to identify women and men. He uses "a Greek term that simply denotes gender, in this case, males [referring to verse 27]. The usual Greek terms for women and men, like corresponding terms in most languages, imply a certain dignity, and Paul refused to ascribe even an implied dignity to those who degenerate into homosexuality."

In my research and study of this type of devastating lifestyle, I have read a great deal of material. And nothing has stayed in my mind (unless it is what I studied in Scripture) more clearly as this statement: "Even most pagan societies have recognized the clearly obvious fact that homosexuality is abnormal and unnatural. It is also an abnormality that is unique to man."

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