

Gospel Centered Living: A Study of the Book of Romans  
Reflecting God's Image  
Romans 1:23-32  
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As we trust Jesus Christ for our salvation, we recognize there is tremendous power in centering our lives in His gospel which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Romans will teach us our need for this transforming power and how to access it by grace for the challenges we face. This study will show us how to be right with God, ourselves, and others. The great reformer, Martin Luther shares: "Romans is a feast for one's soul." Jack Kuhatschek adds, "If a person understands it, he has a sure road opened for him to the understanding of the whole Scripture." We are going to have some sweet Bible times at church and at our small groups this season. But watch out! Those who study Romans are rarely the same afterward. As you study Paul's letter, may you be challenged by the new life and the new lifestyle we have in Christ! Enjoying the Journey, Pastor John

**The Passage:**

23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile

to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

**Big Idea:** The more I acknowledge Jesus Christ ... the more of Him I reflect in my life. The less value I give to him... the darker my life becomes.

I. \_\_\_\_\_ of faulty reflections.

Romans 1:23 and *exchanged* the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Mt.19:4)

Romans 1:25 They *exchanged* the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen

Romans 1:26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women *exchanged* natural relations for unnatural ones.

**Reflective Question:** What is worth the most in your thinking? Is it the glory of God or the glory of man? This decision will determine what you are reflecting. Check your reflection.

***Idolatry is a devotion to the made and not our Maker.***

A. Faulty reflections feed \_\_\_\_\_ thinking.

24 Therefore *God gave them over* in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 26 Because of this, *God gave them over* to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones.

Romans 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he *gave them over* to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

**Depraved mind** – literally a “worthless mind” a mind that is unable to think and decide correctly about God and His will.

Before sin affects our behavior it affects our thinking! (Calvin)

B. Depraved thinking fuels unnatural \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 1:26 Because of this, *God gave them over* to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

Romans 1:29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;

31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

**RQ:** What are we saying to God if we abandon His creative design for our lives? Why does sexual sin block our reflection of God? Consider the consequences of rejecting God's truth.

***Rejecting God's design brings dire consequences.***

II. Godly reflections shine by \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and His ways.

Romans 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.

Ways to bring Jesus into our lives:

- a. Beware of \_\_\_\_\_ your life. (Let Jesus IN)
- b. Prayer –Asking His \_\_\_\_\_ on every situation. (Ask for Power).
- c. Live by His \_\_\_\_\_! (Matthew 4:4) (Let Him Rule)

Philippians 1:11- *filled* with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ *dwell* in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

The greatest judgment that God can inflict on us is to let us have our own way. Warren Wiersbe.

***I reflect what I am filled with!***

