



ROMANS series study guide

Pastor: Pastor Henry Schorr

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Sermon Title: When God Lets Us Have Our Own Way

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. What do you like to hear first, the good news or the bad news? Why?
2. What was the best excuse you ever gave when your parents caught you doing something wrong?

PURSUE GOD: Time that is devoted to the Word of God

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. Pastor Henry talked about the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) and how the father “gave over” the son. In Romans chapter 1 what are the three ways that God “gives people over” who insist on going their own way (v.24, 26, 28)? How does this display both God’s wrath and His love?
2. We can get fixated on the part of this Scripture that talks about sexual sin and thereby miss the 21 sins Paul lays out in verses 28-31. How might these sins be forms of idolatry? How have you seen these sins at work in your own life?

PURSUE MISSION: Seek to be the community of God’s people in your community

Read 1 Corinthians 6:11

1. How would you explain in your own words to someone who is not a Christ-follower what it means to be “washed, sanctified, and justified” in Christ Jesus?
2. Pastor Henry said that we should be “a church that creates a safe place for all those who are genuinely seeking spiritual answers”. What is the difference between acceptance and agreement? How can we show respect for those with different worldviews? How can we best represent Christ to them?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Sin stems from giving priority in our lives to things that are created, instead of God the Creator (Romans 1:21-23). In this season of life, what created thing is most tempting for you: Money? Pleasure? Food? Toys? Work? Relationships?

This week’s writers: Gene and Karen Gibbs, Sandi Yeung, Edi Dygert and Jared Harrison

THE WORD (NIV)

Romans 1:18-32

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being 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 about 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 sexual 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 shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they 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 have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 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.

1 Corinthians 6:11

¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.



ROMANS series study summary

When God Lets Us Have Our Own Way

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Why is God's wrath being revealed? God continues to reveal Himself to everyone through His creation and our conscience – every person knows there is a God. Yet because people want to live as they wish they suppress the truth of God, replacing Him with an idol of their making. This leads to spiraling into greater levels of wickedness through ever more foolish thinking. The parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) exemplifies this. The son wants out. The father lets him go knowing that grief will follow.

God does the same thing (Romans 1:24-32). As people continue to live wicked lives and suppress the truth and God with idols, God reveals His wrath by lifting His hand of grace and protection. He then gives them over by letting people have their own way and live with the consequences of their choices to ultimately draw them to Himself. This may happen to a believer, unbeliever or even culture/people group.

God gives them over to sexual impurity (vs 24). In the Christian worldview anything that deviates from God's moral context for sex (Gen 2:24, Matt 19:5, Eph 5:3, 1 Cor 6:13) is impure. It is people choosing to do what they wish sexually apart from God (Rom 1:24-27). Inevitably in any culture that exchanges God for an idol there is a clash of worldviews. In this world we are all sexually broken people and tempted to act out our sexuality in inappropriate ways. Here, (vs 26) Paul speaks specifically about male/female homosexual behavior which goes against God's design (Gen 1:27-28), and not merely same sex attraction.

Christians have not always demonstrated Christlike love and compassion toward the homosexual community but often judged or condemned them, not understanding the difference between acceptance and agreement. Christians choose to worship their Creator rather than His creation, entrusting their lives to Jesus Christ and living out our faith as the Scriptures say with the help of the Holy Spirit, believing the Bible is inspired and provides direction on how God would have us live our lives. Thus, there will be times when Christians will disagree with certain lifestyles, yet it doesn't make them bigots or homophobic. Still any conversation must be had with love and respect.

Ultimately the result of pushing God away is that the only thing that matters is 'me' and that my needs and wants are met. While there might be a tendency to fixate on homosexual behavior in this passage, Paul lists 21 other sins that are the result of our seeking our own way apart from God (Rom 1:28-32). We are all in that list of sins and are all guilty. Yet our identity is in Christ (1 Cor 6:11), adopted by Him. The core of a Christian's personhood is in Him. And the church is made up of the same kind of people who can then be open and transparent about the stuff in their lives and not explaining away sin or being judgmental. Let us not worship counterfeit idols or give ourselves to lesser things lest our lives be characterized by the many sins Paul lists in this passage. We are created for so much more! In whom or in what is your trust?