

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Romans 1:25-27

The Great Exchange (pt. 2): Homosexuality

Romans 1:18-32

1. Who is in view?

- all humanity apart from the special revelation of God in the Law, epitomized by the Greco-Roman culture of Paul's day
- all these have exchanged the knowledge of the true God for idols and therefore have been given over by God to sin

Romans 1:18-32

2. Structure: Three-Fold Cycle

- 1:21-24: exchanged, gave over, dishonor
- 1:25-27: exchanged, gave over, dishonor
- 1:28-32: rejected, gave over, improper

²⁵ These who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for even their females exchanged the natural function for that which against natural, ²⁷ and in the same way also the males abandoned the natural function of the female and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing indecent acts and receiving in themselves the due penalty of their error.

(Romans 1:25-27)

The Great Exchange (pt. 2)

1. Why highlight homosexuality?

- this "exchange" on the human level is the most vivid dramatization of the primary exchange on the vertical level
- homosexuality parallels on the horizontal level a denial of God's reality like that of idolatry on the vertical level

The Great Exchange (pt. 2)

2. How is homosexuality against nature?

- “nature” – the observation of what actually exists as the world designed by God, including the physical and functional aspects of human sexuality
- homosexuality goes against the anatomical and procreative complementarity of male and female

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3. What is the due penalty of their error?

- the “error” is that of idolatry not homosexuality, which necessitates the recompense
- the penalty is being given over to dishonorable passions leading to dishonoring the body (i.e., homosexuality is the penalty!)

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➤ Concluding Questions:

1. Is homosexuality a uniquely egregious sin? Yes
2. Is the homosexual person uniquely depraved? No
3. Is redemption and sanctification possible for the homosexual person? Yes!

⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)