



THE TERRIBLE PATTERN OF EVER-INCREASING SIN

Romans 1:24-32

Introduction:

- Sin is more problematic, more insidious than you think
- Threefold Pattern of Sin: (1) People knowingly reject the creator for idols; (2) God “gives them up”; (3) People fall into deeper, darker sin

I. People Knowingly Reject the Creator

A. Exchanged Truth About God for a Lie (v.25a)

- o Concept of “exchange” means that they had real knowledge of God, and knowingly swapped it out for false beliefs
- o What are some false things people believe in today, instead of God?

B. Worshipped and Served the Creature (v.25b)

- o What are some things people worship today, other than God?
- o Key principle: *Sin flows from idolatry. We become what we worship.*

II. God “Gives Them Up” to Their Sin

A. Three Different Times We are Told God “Gave Them Up” (v.24, 26, 28)

B. What Does “Give Them Up” Mean?

- o God is always busy restraining sin in the world; he is holding it back.
- o Due to persistent rebellion, God removes these restraints and allows people to “have their way”

***Notice you cannot have morality without God! Men cannot do it themselves.*



III. People Fall into Deeper, Darker Sin

A. Paul's Key Example of Deeper Sin: Homosexuality (v.24, 26-27)

- o Greek terms are really "male" and "female"—why do you think Paul used these?
- o Previously, Paul used word "exchange" to talk about swapping God for idols; now he uses the word "exchange" to talk about swapping natural sexual activity for unnatural. Thus, Paul is connecting these two ideas. Simply put: *swapping gods leads to swapping (sexual) moralities.*

**Thus the solution to immorality is not just to address people's behavior. You also have to address what they worship.

- o Key principle: Some sins are more serious and more impactful than others ** Why do you think sexual immorality (in particular, homosexuality) is such a big deal to God?
- o "The due penalty" is perhaps God allowing them to go their own way, or maybe a reference to future judgment.

B. Other Sins that Mark People who are "Given Up" by God (v.29-32)

- o What are some of the sins in this list that stand out to you?
- o Key principle: these people don't just do these things, but "give approval"



Discussion Groups

1. Paul says that what we worship determines our behavior. Do you see the connection between worship and behavior in your own life?

2. Paul talks about how sin is not static, but progresses further and further if left unchecked. How does that change the way you address sin in your own life?

3. Paul makes it clear that sexual perversion like homosexuality is one of the key signs of a culture in decline. How does that affect or change the way you think about the situation in our culture today?

