

# 7 Steps To Failure

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*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.*

The wrath of God is translated: currently being revealed. In other words, currently, right now, people who are outside of God's family are getting a taste of what this wrath means. The bottom line is, there is no excuse someone can give that they didn't know there was a God. Everyone is personally responsible and accountable.

God always works in the context of human freewill. He gives us what we want... and when someone doesn't want God and chooses poison and death, he will allow them to experience more of it. The same is true with Grace and Life. In this passage, there is a duel relationship happening. Man acts, then God responds. Man does something and "God gives them over..."

## Step 1

*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.*

Leading off the process is a simple but profound absence of action: Stop Thanking God and Stop Glorifying God. This is the first step that leads to failure.

## Step 2

*22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools*

Once we stop being humble and thanking God and acknowledging God as God...someone has to be God! So, if God is not God, then we will slowly put ourselves in His place. Step 3 is simple: we become arrogant and simultaneously become fools.

## Step 3

*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.*

Once we think we are wise, we then will continue the downward trend with our beliefs. This is the point of time that invisible line where it will be too late for a person, family, culture or nation to turn, unless God somehow does a miracle. In this step, we put permanent 'gods' in His place.

## Step 4

At this point, God steps in....

*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.*

When people choose to stop acknowledging God as GOD...and worship other idols instead, this always leads to sexual deviation. God basically says, if that's what you want, then that is what you will get. So He does not prevent them and removes the spiritual restraints that exist.

## Step 5

*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.*

In this step the person or culture institutionalize idol worship. They have to do this because they know it is wrong...but not doing this would lead them to repentance. So they clench their fist, thrust it in God's face and say *no, we do not want you.*

## Step 6

*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.*

These last two steps are God granting (not preventing them) their desires. So God allows them (for a time; until their destruction) to engage in not just sexual deviant sin, but that of the depraved kind: homosexuality. Once a society embraces in this, it is only a matter of time before the society will be destroyed *or* the society will experience revival and find their way back to God.

## Step 7

*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.*

In this last and final step, God gives them over to a mind – reasoning – that is fully depraved and completely incapable of reason, anything to do with God, common sense and reasonableness. Ultimately, the society will destroy itself or God will destroy it. Everything wicked in the universe is practiced here in the last and final step.