



ROOTED

CLARITY IN CULTURE: ROMANS 1:24-28

Romans 1 <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

<sup>25</sup> They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. <sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts.

Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.

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They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters ...

<sup>32</sup> 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.**

4

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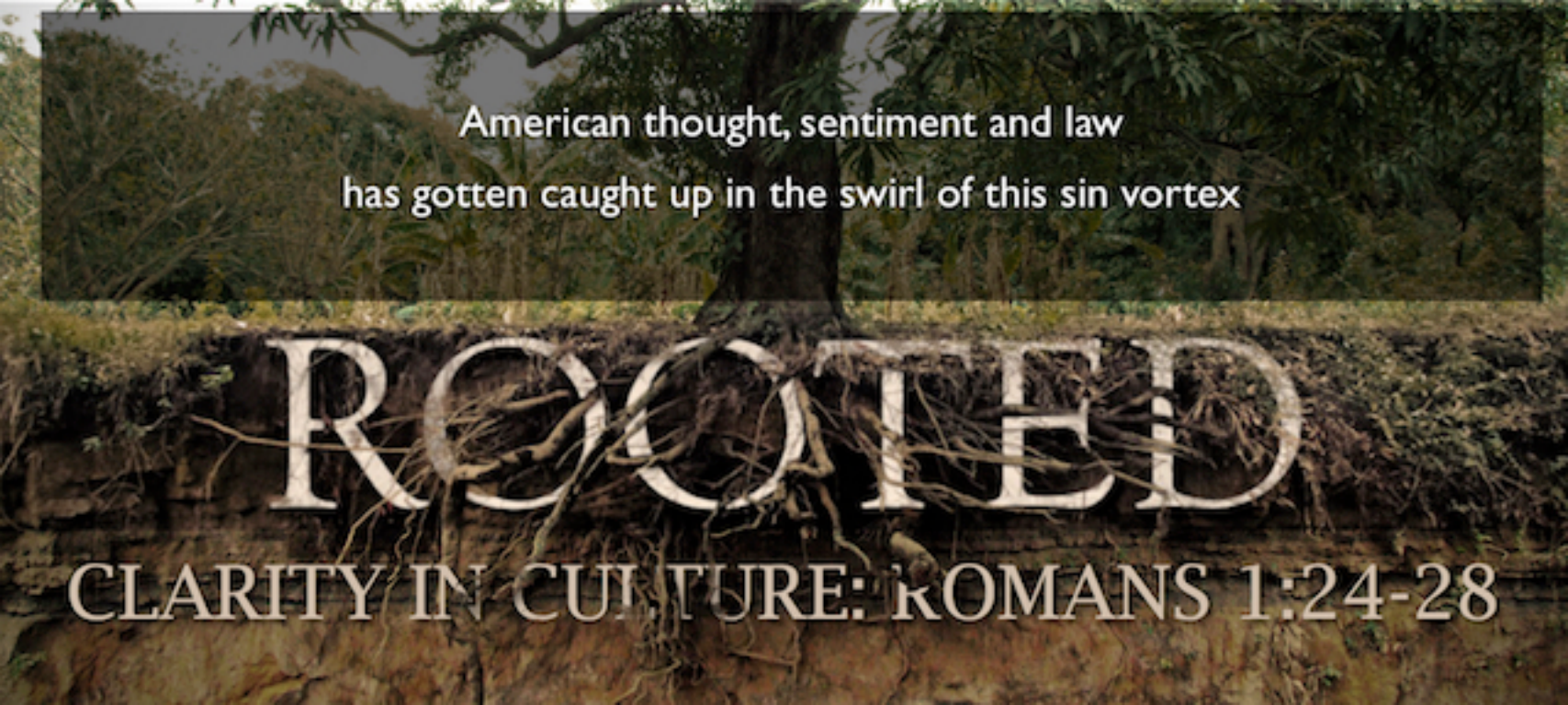
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4


A large tree with its roots exposed in a cross-section of the earth. The roots are thick and spread out across the soil. The background shows a dense forest of green trees.

American thought, sentiment and law  
has gotten caught up in the swirl of this sin vortex

ROOTED

CLARITY IN CULTURE: ROMANS 1:24-28



A large tree with its roots exposed in a cross-section of the ground. The roots are thick and spread out horizontally, illustrating a deep and wide foundation. The background shows a dense forest with various green plants and trees.

# Homosexuality and Marriage

CLARITY IN CULTURE

A large tree with its roots exposed in a cross-section of the ground. The roots are thick and spread out horizontally, illustrating the concept of a strong foundation or 'roots' in culture.

# Homosexuality and Marriage

I. Our culture is increasingly thinking about this in a certain way

CLARITY IN CULTURE

# Homosexuality and Marriage

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and a dense canopy of green leaves. The tree's roots are exposed and spread out across the ground, which is cut away to show the soil and root structure. The background is a soft-focus forest scene.

1. Our culture is increasingly thinking about this in a certain way
2. The church seems to increasingly confused about this.

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# Homosexuality and Marriage



1. Our culture is increasingly thinking about this in a certain way
2. The church seems to increasingly confused about this.
3. Being for traditional marriage can seem mean and unloving.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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- Look at Genesis 1-3 for God's original design for humanity

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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- Look at Genesis 1-3 for God's original design for humanity
  - Seven statements about homosexuality, marriage and God's design

# Homosexuality and Marriage

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  2. The church seems to increasingly confused about this.
  3. Being for traditional marriage can seem mean and unloving.
- Look at Genesis 1-3 for God's original design for humanity
  - Seven statements about homosexuality, marriage and God's design
- Seminar 11/21 9:00a-12:30p
- Membership Meeting re: bylaws revision 11/22 at noon

# Genesis 1

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. <sup>28</sup> Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

CLARITY IN CULTURE



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- God's image was created male and female
- He called it "very good". He affirmed their masculinity and femininity.
- God delighted in them

## Genesis 2

<sup>21</sup> And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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- God institutes marriage as between a man and woman
- This is God's perfect design, for human flourishing

## Genesis 3

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’**”

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,<sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.<sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

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# Romans 1

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**TRUTH |**

God's Design for marriage is between a man  
and a woman

**LIE |**

Homosexual marriage is ok in the Bible

CLARITY IN CULTURE





**TRUTH 1**

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Genesis 1-2 defines God's design for human flourishing to be marriage between a man and a woman and this to be the foundation for children and a flourishing society.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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Jesus reaffirms God's design for marriage in Matt 19:4-6

**<sup>4</sup> And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created *them* from the beginning made them male and female, <sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."**

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Jesus reaffirms God's design for marriage in Matt 19:4-6

Paul re-reaffirms God's design for marriage in Eph 5:31-32 but ups the significance of it

<sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.



**TRUTH 2**

Homosexuality is a sin

**LIE 2**

Homosexuality is not a sin

CLARITY IN CULTURE



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There are a number of key passages in that reveal that homosexual behavior is sin (missing the mark of God's design for human flourishing)

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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**Lev. 18:22 - "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.**

**CLARITY IN CULTURE**

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**1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.**





**TRUTH 3**

God is able to give us power over every sin,  
including homosexuality

**LIE 3**

I am a homosexual in thought and action and I  
cannot change

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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<sup>11</sup> **And such were some of you.** 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



**TRUTH 4**

Temptation is not sin

**LIE 4**

My same-sex attraction and temptation must mean that I'm a homosexual

CLARITY IN CULTURE



**TRUTH 4**

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**LIE 4**

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My temptation does not define me. God's Word and His design for me does.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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Temptation is part of our sinful human experience. We are all tempted. It's what we do with our temptations that define our destiny

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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**Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.



**TRUTH 5**

God's design for relationship and marriage and sexuality is normal, because He defines what is right and wrong

**LIE 5**

Homosexuality is normal and we should approve of it as normal

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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We must let God tell us what is right and wrong, not our culture or the voices of a few.

CLARITY IN CULTURE



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This is crucial for our next generations.

**CLARITY IN CULTURE**



**TRUTH 6**

God and the Church are to be the love, truth  
and healing for sexual brokenness

**LIE (and Partial truth) 6**

God and the Church want nothing to do with  
me if I'm a homosexual or have same-sex  
attraction

CLARITY IN CULTURE



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The church has unfortunately exacerbated the alienation, guilt and shame of those struggling with same-sex attraction through its harsh rhetoric, judgmental posture, ignorance and simplistic answers.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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At this church, we want to be the ones to be welcome of all strugglers of sin, believing that we'll one day be able to say "such were some of us"

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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At this church, we want to be the ones to be welcome of all strugglers of sin, believing that we'll one day be able to say "such were some of us"

We also have to ask forgiveness where we have not been clear about what the Scripture says and the hope of the Gospel, thereby causing more confusion

CLARITY IN CULTURE



**TRUTH 7**

By being lovingly clear about God's truth, we can rescue people from sin

**LIE 7**

If don't accept homosexuality as normal, I'm being mean and unloving

CLARITY IN CULTURE



**TRUTH 7**

By being lovingly clear about God's truth, we can rescue people from sin

**LIE 7**

If don't accept homosexuality as normal, I'm being mean and unloving

We cannot minister truth to people from within the vortex of sin

CLARITY IN CULTURE



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Compassion is suffering with others

CLARITY IN CULTURE



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Because God's design for human flourishing lies in sexual intercourse between a man and a woman married to each other and this is meant to be the basis of human society, things which deviate from this plan cause great harm (physiologically, psychologically, sociologically and societally)

CLARITY IN CULTURE

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God's desire is to set people free

CLARITY IN CULTURE

# Implications for us

A large tree with its roots exposed in a cross-section of the ground. The roots are thick and spread out horizontally, illustrating a strong foundation. The background shows a forest setting.

I. If you are struggling, we are with you.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

# Implications for us

A large tree with its roots exposed in a cross-section of the ground. The roots are thick and spread out horizontally, illustrating the concept of a strong foundation or 'roots'.

1. If you are struggling, we are with you.
2. Be clear with your own children about God's design for them

CLARITY IN CULTURE

## Implications for us

1. If you are struggling, we are with you.
2. Be clear with your own children about God's design for them
3. In the long run, this human experiment will not work. More lives will be destroyed and when this happens, we have to be ready to be the rescuers

CLARITY IN CULTURE

## Implications for us


1. If you are struggling, we are with you.
2. Be clear with your own children about God's design for them
3. In the long run, this human experiment will not work. More lives will be destroyed and when this happens, we have to be ready to be the rescuers
4. We will be challenged like never before. This requires our clarity and courage, as well as our compassion.

CLARITY IN CULTURE

## Implications for us

1. If you are struggling, we are with you.
2. Be clear with your own children about God's design for them
3. In the long run, this human experiment will not work. More lives will be destroyed and when this happens, we have to be ready to be the rescuers
4. We will be challenged like never before. This requires our clarity and courage, as well as our compassion.
5. Let's embrace the world we are living in, embrace the role of the church, and embrace those who need to more deeply experience the love of God through us


CLARITY IN CULTURE

A large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage stands on a cross-section of soil. The roots are exposed and spread out horizontally across the soil layers, illustrating the concept of being 'rooted' in something. The background shows a lush, green landscape with other trees and vegetation.

God,  
don't give me  
over to my sin

CLARITY IN CULTURE






God,  
don't give me  
over to my sin

God, help me to  
be more clear,  
courageous and  
compassionate with my  
children in my  
relationships and in my  
places of influence  
or employment

CLARITY IN CULTURE



God,  
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or employment

God, help me  
in this area of my  
life: (physical healing,  
interpersonal  
conflict, finances,  
etc.)

CLARITY IN CULTURE