

Worship Wars: The Truth, the lies
and the Lord
Romans 1:24-32

Pastor Brandon D. Myers

Romans 1:24-32:

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen...

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error...

...And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips...

...slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

(Romans 1:24-32)

“There are 75 days celebrating LGBTQ+ in America. There are 3 times more LGBTQ+ holidays than Christian holidays or holidays for any other religion or "people group" in America. The "Progress Pride Flag" in June 2023 was hung centrally at the Whitehouse between and level with two American flags, violating the U.S. flag code. The American flag is supposed to be displayed centrally when multiple flags are displayed and it's supposed to be above the other flags. LGBTQ+ is the dominant false religion in America.”

*-Dr. Jared Moore, author of *The Lust of the Flesh**

**Since the Lord alone is
eternally worthy, worship Him
in truth.**

Lie # 1:

Worship is done by *some people but not others.*

For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and *worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator*, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Romans 1:25)

Truth # 1

Worship is done by everyone: to be
human is to worship.

For even though they knew God, they did not *honor Him as God or give thanks*, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged *the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man* and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

(Romans 1:21-23)

“Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that really is your god.”

–Martin Luther

“The truth of God is suppressed, but worship is not. We will worship whether we like it or not because this is how we were made. The least religious people in the world are still worshippers.”

–Jonathan Cruse

What Happens When We Worship

“Worship is the proper response of all moral, sentient beings to God, ascribing all honor and worth to their Creator-God precisely because he is worthy, delightfully so.”

-D.A. Carson, New Testament scholar

“Do we realize how almost exactly the Baal culture of Canaan is reproduced in American church culture? Baal religion is about what makes you feel good. Baal worship is a total immersion in what I can get out of it. And of course, it was incredibly successful. The Baal priests could gather crowds that outnumbered followers of Yahweh 20 to 1.”

–G.K. Beale, We become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry

“There is a delight which is given not to the wicked, but to those who worship you [God] for no reward save the joy that you [God] yourself are to them. That is the authentic happy life, to set one’s joy on you, grounded in you and caused by you. That is the real thing, and there is no other. Those who think that the happy life is found elsewhere, pursue another joy and not the true one.”

-Augustine

Lie # 2: Rejecting to honor the *Creator is harmless.*

Truth # 2 Rejecting to honor the *Creator*
devastates

Therefore God gave them over in the
lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that
their bodies would be dishonored
among them.

(Romans 1:24)

Spiritual, relational and personal devastation:

God ***gave them over*** in the lusts of their hearts...(vs. 24)

God ***gave them over*** to degrading passions...(vs. 26)

God ***gave them over*** to a depraved mind...(vs. 28)

Creational, societal, and national devastation:

...their *women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural*, 27 and in the same way also the *men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another*, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. (Romans 1:26-27)

“Homosexuality mars our view of the image of God by denying the complementary relationship between men and women. It denies procreation, one of the principal purposes for which God designed marriage and sex. It blasphemes the illustration of Christ’s self-sacrificing love for his church. And it violates clear commands of Scripture. Hence, while all sexual sin is an expression of idolatry, homosexuality is a step further down the road of depravity.”

-Voddie Baucham

“It is not a kindness for a parent to allow a child to play with a scorpion or touch a hot radiator, nor is it a kindness for the church to give its blessing to forms of sexual expression that, as Paul notes, degrades the body created by God.” -Dr. Robert Gagnon, NT scholar

Rational, logical and eternal devastation:

...and *although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death*, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.
(Romans 1:32)

“How meet [i.e. fitting] was it for they who had forsaken the Author of nature should be given up not to keep the order of nature.”

–Matthew Poole

“Today the increasing prevalence of sexual perversions is a dreadful mark of God’s wrath upon a civilization which glories in its ‘post-Christian’ character.”

–Geoffrey B. Wilson

Lie # 3 Without true worship people walk
wisely in truth.

Truth # 3: Without true worship *the truth*
will walk out

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do *those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness*, wickedness, greed, evil *full of envy*, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, *without understanding*, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful...(Romans 1:28-30)

"There is a force in the cosmos far more powerful than sinful desire, potent as it is. That force is the goodness of God, the overpowering mercy and all-conquering grace of God that flows from Calvary to us. Christ's death means the death of our sin and the defeat of the devil (Romans 6:6; Hebrews 2:14-18). Christ was crucified for us; Christ was resurrected for us. So we live now in the power of Christ, and battle the flesh every day of our existence."

*-Owen Strachan in *Lust of the Flesh* forward*