

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“God Gave Them Up”

Romans 1:24-32

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Main Point: God has given humanity over to a depraved mind, but through Jesus shed blood, He has not given up on humanity.

Introduction

- Think about a time when someone you cared about was allowed to experience the consequences of a bad decision rather than being rescued from them. What did that situation teach you about the relationship between love and consequences?

Understanding

1. God Gave Them Up to Uncleaness. Read Romans 1:24-25.

- a. In verse 24, is God giving up on humanity? Explain.
- b. What two wrong actions did the people take in verse 25?
- c. Why would someone worship something created, rather than the Creator?
- d. Three times in verses 24, 26 and 28 Paul teaches that God gave them up to their desires. Should we trust our desires? Why or why not?
- e. How does Paul's teaching on our desires here compare with the attitude of most people in our culture?
- f. Paul connects sexual immorality directly to idolatry — the exchanging of the truth of God for a lie. How do you see that connection playing out in the world around you today? Can you think of examples where a distorted view of God leads to a distorted view of human behavior?

2. God Gives Them Up to Dishonorable Passions. Read Romans 1:26-27.

- a. In verse 26, Paul describes God giving people over to "dishonorable passions". How do you understand the relationship between rejecting God's truth (v. 25) and the breakdown of God's design for human relationships?
- b. How do the following scriptures define God's original design for human sexuality and gender?
 - i. Matthew 19:4-9
 - ii. Leviticus 18:22-23
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
 - iv. Hebrews 13:4
- c. What does it mean practically when Paul writes that people received "in themselves the due penalty for their error" (v. 27)? How do individual and societal choices affect our overall well-being?
- d. In light of passages like 1 Corinthians 6:9-11—which reminds believers that "such were some of you"—how should the reality of God's redemptive power shape our attitude toward any sexual sin, whether inside or outside the church?

3. God Gave Them Up to a Reprobate Mind. Read Romans 1:28-32.

- a. What is a reprobate (debased) mind?
- b. Describe the downward spiral of sin depicted in Romans 1:24-32. What is God's verdict against humanity's sinful condition?
- c. Has the church compromised the Word of God in today's culture? Explain.

Application

- How would this passage of scripture help you to talk with someone that supports a LGBTQ view?