

Romans 1: Depravity

Romans one introduces us to the Gospel. It is a message different from any other in history. It reveals the grace of God AND the wrath of God. For us to understand salvation, we need to understand from what it is we are saved. This is the wrath of God against ungodliness. In particular, Paul points us to the path of a particular depravity: Homosexuality.

Depravity means something that is against the natural order. Many things could be considered depravity. Paul's point in Romans 1 is that when men reject God the Creator, they begin a process of a depraved mind. A depraved mind seeks to satisfy itself above all other things (1 Timothy 6:5), warping even spiritual ideas to accomplish this purpose. It is never content or satisfied, but must always seek after more depravity. Ultimately, it must violently reject those who are not of the same depraved mind. Lot experienced this in Genesis 19:9, when he confronted the depraved minds of his time.

In this passage. Paul, an Apostle and spokesman for Jesus Christ, is saying:

Homosexuality is depravity – 1 Cor. 6:9-10

Bisexuality is depravity – 1 Cor. 6:9-10

Transgenderism is depravity – Matt. 19:4-5

Supporting these roles is depravity – Rom. 1:32

The "death" Paul speaks of is clarified in Romans 6:23 – it is the eternal death of being cut off from God, cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14). Of course, many would not accept this teaching (particularly that last point). Instead, they have created a series of defenses to this clear doctrine.

1. *It does not hurt anyone*

Of course, the prison system is full of sexually depraved men and women who would disagree. Sexual depravity leads to violence (look at FBI statistics on pornography and violence, for example). Often times people are misled when they hear about pedophile crime; most instances are homosexual in nature. But homosexual depravity also hurts the people who practice it; suicide rates are dramatically higher¹, drug use is higher, and the exposure to disease is greater. The family unit is damaged by depravity; studies constantly reveal that it is the traditional family that offers the greatest stability². But above all, what is forgotten is that sin hurts God, and makes us an enemy of God (James 3:4-5).

"Of all the rocks upon which we build our lives, we are reminded today that family is the most important. And we are called to recognize and honor how critical every father is to that foundation" – Barak Obama, 2008; *Importance of Fathers in Healthy Development of Children*

2. *"We are born this way"*

In this plea it is a simple point to say that no scientific evidence has EVER been found that supports this assertion (although many people believe it as fact). But Jesus did say that some people are born "eunuchs" (biologically gender damaged) in Matthew 19:12; but this is not an issue that is insurmountable according to 1 Corinthians 10:13. Whether or not one is "born homosexual" (again, an emphasis on the fact that it has NEVER been demonstrated to be true), we are called not to be a part of that lifestyle.

3. *It is wrong to judge*

¹ "Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide". Eric.ed.gov. Retrieved 2011-08-21.

² Washington Times: Study: Children fare better in traditional mom-dad homes (June 10, 2012) – 2 studies

This claim is absurd. First, no one in their right mind believes that we should not make any judgments. If offered a plate of food that appears rotten we make a judgment whether or not we eat it. Labels such as *homophobic* (a made-up word), *prejudice*, *bigot* are by definition judgmental; they seek to make depravity moral. What EVERYONE who makes this claim means is that it is wrong to judge DIFFERENT than their opinion. More importantly, when someone claims that it is wrong to judge, they fail to understand that the Bible claims otherwise. In Matthew 7:1-5 we are commanded to judge by the standard we are judged by, the Word of God. Jesus said in John 7:24 "do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Paul made the claim in Romans 1 that homosexuality is depravity. It is repeated in places such as 1 Corinthians 6 and 1 Timothy 1. Jesus stated in Matthew 19 that the sexual relationship that is acceptable before God is a man and a woman in a marriage. Any other relationship (divorce and remarriage, fornication, bigamy or homosexuality) is a depravity against God.