

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Feb. 19, 2012

Passage: Romans 1:24-27

Memory Passage: Romans 8:3-4 (v. 3 is a review but v. 4 is new)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom 1:24-27 & Rom. 3.** To what does the “therefore” that begins v. 24 refer? How does it connect what precedes with what follows?

(b) Who is being referred to in these verses, Jews, Gentiles, or everyone? To what did God give them up? Was this act active or passive on God’s part?

(c) **Read Ps. 81:11-12, Acts 7:42-43, Rom. 11:7-8 & 2 Thess. 2:9-12.** What do you learn about the activity of God from these verses? Is His action active or passive? What does this tell you about God’s response to sin? Does this mean that God causes sin? What passages can you cite to back up your answer?

(d) *Family:* Some of you have chosen to keep your children with you during this sermon and some have chosen to have your children attend a class on God’s plan for marriage. So you have two options for your family times: (1) Lead your family through the questions that are offered on each day in preparation for the sermon, or (2) Lead your family through a study on God’s plan for marriage in preparation for the class. If you are preparing for the class, today teach your family from **Gen. 2:18-24**, showing God’s creation of Eve (not 2 Eves or another Adam) as the helper suited to complement Adam, and the spontaneous shout of joy from Adam, and the concepts of leaving, holding fast, and becoming one flesh. You might use as an object lesson two objects glued together with super glue as the picture of the strong words “holding fast” & “one flesh.”

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:18-27 & Rom. 4.** For what reason did God “give them up” (v. 25)? Is this verse a new truth for this passage or a reiteration of something that Paul has already said? If it is a reiteration, which verse(s) does it reiterate, and why?

(b) In verses 24-28 you should find 3 occurrences of the phrase “God gave them up.” As you examine the context of each use of the phrase, what do you learn about the connection between each use? What is the connection between the exchanges the people made and God giving them up?

(c) What is the lie for which they exchanged “the truth about God?” How do the people spoken of in these verses, “worship & serve the creature rather than the creator?” Even though you might not be involved in this kind of gross sexual immorality, in what other ways do you “worship & serve the creature rather than the creator?” What people, passions, or activities do you worship & serve more than Christ? What will you do this week to correct this bad exchange?

(d) *Family:* Teach your family from **Gen. 2:24, Mal. 2:14, Prov. 2:16-17** explaining that marriage is a covenant between a man & a woman to which God is the witness. The language of “holding fast” is covenantal language (see, for example, Gen. 29:15, Deut. 10:20 & 11:22). Explain what a covenant is by making one with your family. An example: Tell them that if they hold fast to their commitment (obeying mom and doing chores) then they will receive the promise of a blessing (a movie night with special snacks, a day without chores, a trip to a park, etc.). Write on paper the commitment of the children and their mother and the reward that will happen. You function as the witness and provider of the blessing.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 1:24-27 & Rom. 5.** During our look at vs. 26-27, my questions are never intended to have you contemplate the vulgarities of the acts, only to address specific words or phrases. Take a moment to pray that God would protect your heart from lust as you contemplate these specific sexual sins, and from being judgmental toward those caught up in these types of sexual immorality. What does Paul mean when he uses the word “natural” and “nature” in vs. 26-27?

(b) Why do you think Paul uses more words to describe the unnatural acts of men than of women? Is there any significance to the fact that he mentions women first?

(c) In verses 23-26 you find 3 occurrences of the word “exchanged.” As you examine the context of each use of the word, what do you learn about the connection between/progression of these exchanges?

(d) Given what you have studied so far, answer the following multiple-choice question: “The main theme of vs. 24-27 is (a) God’s wrath, (b) idolatry, (c) sexual immorality in general, or (d) homosexuality in particular”?

(e) *Family:* Teach your family from **Gen. 2:24 & Mark 10:6-9.** In this lesson emphasize the permanence of marriage that Jesus affirms from Genesis. One flesh (no longer single but now married and made to be one, like being super-glued together through the Holy Spirit), no separation (what God has put together . . .), and faithfulness to God’s covenant of marriage.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Gen. 19:1-29 & Rom. 1:24-27.** What was the sin that caused the Lord's wrath to fall on Sodom & Gomorrah? What verse(s) support your answer? How would you categorize Lot's actions and character in this account?

(b) How do the actions of the men of Sodom illustrate Paul's description of men who had given up natural relations with women in Rom. 1:27? How does Paul in Rom. 1:24-27 help us understand what happened in Sodom in Gen. 19?

(c) **Read 2 Pet. 2:6-8.** Of what does Peter say Sodom & Gomorrah's destruction is an example? How does he describe Lot's actions & character? How does Peter's description match your description of Lot from the preceding question? What does Peter's assessment of Lot tell you about the qualifications for one to be righteous, especially in light of the sins Lot committed in Gen. 19 (note as well vs. 30-38)? Why was Lot (and you!) considered to be "righteous?"

(d) *Family:* Teach your family from **Eph. 5:22-24 & 1 Pet. 3:1-6.** Explain that tonight & tomorrow you will investigate what the Bible says about the roles in which husbands & wives are to function as they carry out their covenant faithfulness in marriage. Explain that women are to submit (make sure everyone understands how glorious this is, that it is not some kind of agreement to dominance, that it is ultimately a wife's submission to the Lord, and that even though it includes obedience [1 Pet. 3:6] it does not include ideas of slavery) to husbands who love them as Christ loved the church (tomorrow's lesson). Have your wife lead in this discussion and talk about the joys of being submitted to Christ as she submits to you, and what this looks like in daily life. (Our discussions from The Forge meetings should be of great help to you both today & tomorrow!)

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Rom. 1:24-27, Lev. 18:22, 20:13, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 1 Tim. 1:9-10 & Jude 7.** What do you learn about God's evaluation of and response to the act of homosexual sex? Why, according to Rom. 1:24-27, do men and women engage in these activities? Is homosexual activity something to be judged by God in the future or is it something that is being judged now? And to be more specific, is the activity being judged now, or is the activity itself God's current judgment?

(b) How would you respond to these commonly given objections to the Bible's teaching against homosexual acts: (1) The sin that led to Sodom & Gomorrah's destruction was not homosexuality, it was the lack of hospitality. (2) The giving up of "natural relations" in Rom. 1:26-27 refers to those who are "naturally" heterosexual who engage in homosexual acts. It does not condemn those who are "naturally" homosexual engaging in homosexual acts. (3) The homosexual activity condemned in the Bible is not *all* homosexual activity, only men having sex with boys and women having sex with girls.

(c) What is your primal response to people who practice homosexuality? Are you judging or loving? Are you condemning or extending grace? Do you think first of their condemnation and later, or not at all, about the saving grace of God toward sinners? **Read 1 Cor. 6:9-11.** You already read vs. 9-10, but now focus on v. 11. How can Paul say in verse 9-10 that none of these people will enter the kingdom of heaven and then turn around and say "such *were* some of you!" What does this tell you about your role in the lives of homosexuals? What does this tell you about your need to build relationships with them without condoning their sin? Of what do you need to repent about your attitude toward those who are involved in homosexual sin?

(d) *Family:* Today teach your family from **Eph. 5:25-33 & 1 Pet. 3:7.** Explain your role as a husband who loves your wife as Christ loves the church, and what it looks like in your daily life to do this and show honor to your wife.

DATE: February 19, 2012

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Given Over (Part I)