



**Rebellion Results**  
**The Problem of Getting What You Want Even When it is Wrong**  
**Part 2**  
**Romans 1:18-32**

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What I will be teaching on today is considered by many to not be politically correct. There are those in the liberal and progressive side of the church that would tell you it is even hateful.

My job though, as your pastor, is to warn when the scripture warns and to be consistent with what the scriptures actually do teach.



We are in Romans 1 and Paul is outlining what the results of rebelling against God and His revelation of Himself leads to. It isn't pretty. And what's worse, many in our culture today do not agree with the assessment of Paul or the commands of God that many of these sins he outlines, are sins at all but simply an expression of our cultural standards and practices. By the way, they said the same thing in Sodom and Gomorrah as well.

Before going off into what Paul lists, I want us as a church to understand that we are all sinners saved by grace. When Christ confronts us, some of us may have had lifestyles more in alignment with what Paul outlines here.

We were captives to our sin and the sin nature. We were busy serving the flesh since that, prior to Christ coming into our life, was all we knew. Why, because we were busy believing the lies of Satan until we discovered, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, that we were indeed being lied too. These lies began in Genesis 3 where Adam and Eve believed the lies of the Nacash and by doing so, switched from worshipping the creator, to worshipping themselves, the creature.

Genesis 3:4–5

"The serpent said to the woman, "You certainly will not die! For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and **you will become like God**, knowing good and evil." (NASB 2020)

Even though God has revealed Himself in the creation, prior to coming to Christ, we ignored that and we ignored Him. So, as Paul says in verse 24, we were given over to the degrading of our bodies, we were given over to what it is we desired, and that was to feed our own lusts and desires. That is called, in the Bible, living in the flesh, and the more you indulge in it, the further down the spiral takes you. Why? You never can get enough; you can never be satisfied enough to fill that God shaped hole in our heart.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

"He has made everything appropriate in its time. **He has also set eternity in their heart**, without the possibility that mankind will find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end." (NASB 2020)

Only Christ can fill that void, until He does, we keep looking for that next thrill or high. Even after we come to Christ this battle between our own sinful fleshly desires and what it is the Lord wants for us, continues to be an issue.

Romans 8:5–8

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**" (ESV)

I do not want us to get into the Holier than thou mindset on any of these sins in this list. Yes, I know you may not have an issue with some of them, but others do. As the Church, we are all trusting Christ to grow us together in Him. We are all sinners saved by grace.

I say that because I have actually heard pastors teach how thankful they are that they aren't as sinful as anyone on this list. We are all on the list by the way in one form or another.

In a letter he wrote earlier to the church in Corinth, the location he happens to be writing to Rome from, Paul dealt with the fact that as the church, we all have a history. We are all saved sinners. He contrasts



those who are practicing wickedness currently versus those who have been saved through the blood of Christ and he references the background of those who are now in Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

“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, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 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.**” (ESV)

Paul warns the Corinthians of deception on this topic. The reason, there were those who were making excuses for sin, even then.

And the deception is strong today. Let's examine our text.

Romans 1:22–27

“**Claiming to be wise, they became fools**, and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures. Therefore **God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.** For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, 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 natural relations for that which is contrary to nature, and likewise the men, too, abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing shameful acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.**” (NASB 2020)

We stopped last time learning that sexual sin was to be topic one. And Paul does not disappoint there. In verse 26, he begins to provide details, and the English translation does indeed miss aspects of it, all through this section.

Romans 1:26

“**For this reason** God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations for that which is contrary to nature,” (NASB 2020)

For what reason? For the rebellion and rejection of God as creator and because they were handed over to their own lusts and desires to control their life, that is the reason. That is Paul reiterating what he has said earlier and his example, “their women exchanged natural relations for that which is contrary to nature.”

God gave them over. Paul did not start here just to be controversial, but he is directly addressing the culture that is around him.

Recall in verse 24 it was impurity as Paul began talking about sexual sin. Now the term is degrading passion. This term refers, as Dr. Osborne relates, “both to internal illicit desire and the external sexual activity that results. These shameful lusts are doubly removed from God's true place for sex, as they are both outside of marriage and outside of the man-woman relationship that is the intent of creation itself. The primary example is homosexual activity, as “even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.”” (Osborne 2017, 44)

What was going on in the culture of the day that would lead to this?



Let me warn you against one of the current tropes being flashed around in our current culture that this is all new and normal progression. It isn't new. Not at all and it isn't normal either.

Dr. Craig Keener provides us some insight into the culture of the day, and Paul has lived in the worst example of the culture, the Las Vegas of the Med, Corinth. He is writing to Romans who have their own issues but are fully aware of the lifestyle choices also coming into their city and Empire.

In the culture of the day, "Greek men were often bisexual; not only was homosexual behavior approved (some writers, like speakers in Plato's Symposium, preferred it to heterosexual behavior), but elements of the culture socialized boys in this direction. Probably due to a deficiency in the number of women (which many attribute to female infanticide), marriages were often made between thirty-year-old men and women who were eighteen or even younger; husbands usually did not respect them. Men had access to only three forms of sexual release until such late marriages: slaves, prostitutes and other males. Men often preferred boys on the edge of puberty or adolescents. Lesbianism, though less widely reported, is also attested. Although many upper-class Romans were affected by Greek ideals, some other Romans, including a number of Roman philosophers, disliked homosexual practice. Greco-Roman moralists sometimes opposed gender reversal as "against nature," which would resemble the Jewish argument from God's original purposes in creation (Gen 2:18)." (Keener 2014, 428) Thus, Paul's terms.

Here is the progression, first God gave them over to their lusts and they exchanged the truth of God for a lie. This exchange of truth referenced first in verse 25 does not end. Have you noticed that when a person begins to lie to themselves, it is tough to stop. Where does lying to yourself begin? Not just in the area of sex but in life.

It could start when you disagree with an evaluation at work that has all of the facts and patterns exhibited but you are still convinced it is a personal vendetta, when it really is all about performance or lack thereof.

It could begin as simple flirting with someone of the opposite sex with nothing behind it at all, but over time, one of the parties to the flirting begins to think otherwise even though it still is flirting about nothing. Soon, assumptions are being made by one of the parties, and the internal deception mode takes over. As a result, actions are taken that are in alignment with the lie created in one person's mind and now we are suddenly discussing a criminal action, like rape.

The culture even sings songs about the act of lying to yourself or the impact of being fooled when nothing ever really changes as a result of the lie.

Sin hides itself by nature and self-deception is one of its major tools. It averts the truth, and since an aversion to truth is also an aversion to God, self-deception is sinful. Sin involves turning away from God just as self-deception involves turning away from truth, and both are motivated by our disordered love, which is the result of the fall. (Pak 2018, 416)

Without Christ, we love ourselves more than anything else and for some, they will do whatever it takes to satisfy self and the lusts they have. The primary person we all at one time lied to, was ourselves.

What Paul is saying here is that this is not what God intended.

Romans 1:26–27

"For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations for that which is contrary to nature, and likewise the men, too, abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing shameful acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error." (NASB 2020)



The terms being contrasted here are natural versus contrary to nature, stressing that this is not what God ever intended when He created us. Paul starting off with female practices would have been shocking in that culture because male homosexuality was so pervasive at the time.

And here is where we have now turned to being politically incorrect. If natural is clearly defined as I have done so, as being per the purpose of God's creation, then what that means is simple, all same sex acts are sin. They are not only a sin against God but a sin against His will for His creation. And that means there is no other option for the one who is caught up in that sinful lifestyle other than to repent and come to Christ. We will not be affirming anyone in a sinful lifestyle.

Natural does not mean ones "sexual orientation." One is not born this way, clearly as Paul has just taught earlier in this chapter. Natural is per God's creation. Sexual orientation is another term the culture has devised to try and normalize what is a sin. It is the result of sin either done to or by the one who is now engaged in the lifestyle. That is inclusive of abuse as well as grooming and trafficking.

This was a real issue for Paul as he writes here about it, and it is a real issue for us today. Jesus Christ forgives sin and He can change anyone caught up in any type of sinful lifestyle no matter what it is.

There are indeed those who have an understanding of the scriptures and who are caught up in this lifestyle and feel as if there is no out. There is, His name is Jesus Christ and He will forgive you if you only just ask.

One more thing, there are indeed other sins in this list that some struggle with as well, and we will get to them. I am not homophobic, but I am sinaphobic. Remember again what Paul said to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

"Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who **indulge** in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. **Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**" (NLT)

Yep, sinners saved by grace.

Remember, when you point a finger at someone, you always have three pointing right back at you. We will get to this verse here in Romans eventually, but it is important to us to get a grasp now on the topic of different sins and sinful lifestyles.

Romans 12:3

"For through the grace given to me **I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.**" (NASB 2020)

As His church, we stand for the truth of the gospel, we are not going to add anything new to the already existing offense of the gospel. Sin does not get a pass, no matter what the sin is. Dr. Osborne says this. "Many argue that "natural" here should be seen as referring to a person's sexual orientation or the current custom in culture. If so, Paul would be saying homosexual practice is wrong only if an individual does not happen to have that sexual proclivity, or if culture currently prohibits it. According to this argument, since Greek culture accepted homosexual practice, Paul would here only be prohibiting it in Jewish circles. However, Paul is not writing from within a purely Jewish or Gentile perspective, and the Roman church contained both Jews and Gentiles. "Natural" here cannot be restricted to cultural preferences but refers to



God's created order. For sexual sins to be "against nature" must mean they are against God's will, and the very phrase "shameful lusts" shows that Paul considers them a perversion of God's moral order. Paul is condemning homosexual practice for both Jew and Gentile. (Osborne 2017, 45)

And yes, the Old Testament did also condemn these practices as well.

Looking back at Corinth, everyone in that church was recovering from some different sinful lifestyle, and so are we today. Again, no finger pointing, and please, lets lose the hierarchy of one sin over another. I say that because it only take one to send someone to hell.

James 2:10

"For the one who obeys the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it." (NET 2nd ed.)

In the eyes of God, a white lie, exceeding the speed limit, and murder will all send you to hell. They are all sin, and they are all things that Jesus died on the cross for paying our penalty so we could live.

Romans 3:23

"for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God," (NASB 2020)

All means all. We are all in need of a savior and once we come to Christ, then the Holy Spirit comes into us and then and only then do we have the power to move from our sinful lifestyle, whether it is gambling, gluttony, lying, pride or homosexuality or whatever, to become His kids. Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit is in the business of making us each and everyday to be more and more like Him.

Why are some so harsh and judgmental of various sins? Simple. They most likely have not dealt with some sin in their own life.

The sin that is number one on God's hit parade – idolatry. That one carries more weight than any other. The Bible does not teach that all sins are equal, there is one that once you cross the line, you are indeed toast. Jesus pointed that out when He said there was an unpardonable sin, and this was directed to a group of men who had committed it, they had attributed the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ to Satan.

Matthew 12:31–32

"Therefore I tell you, **every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.** And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come." (ESV)

Satan will lie to you and me and try to convince us that some particular sin we may have committed or someone else has committed just cannot be forgiven by the Lord. I have heard folks qualify some of the following as unforgivable sins. Divorce, adultery, blasphemy, abortion, pick your least favorite sin or your favorite one.

We have to look to the context of what had just happened when Jesus said this, He had just healed a man who was demon possessed, blind and mute. "The Pharisees said that Jesus had expelled demons by the power of the prince of demons, Beelzebub. So their unforgivable sin is attributing Jesus' miracle, which was performed in the power of the Holy Spirit, to Satan. The unforgivable sin is to call Jesus and his divine power satanic. People who do this would never go to Jesus for forgiveness, as they are saying he is of the devil. So their sins will never be forgiven by God." (Water 2000, 62)



If you are worried, or you talk to someone who is worried they may have committed the unpardonable sin, they haven't. Otherwise, they would not be worried about it.

Is Paul done, nope. Back to our text.

Again, the progression. First God reveals His wrath on those who suppress the truth attributing God's good creation to chance, aliens or whatever. They become fools and begin to worship things or themselves. God gives them up to what their lusts desire and they dishonor their own bodies with various sexual sin to include degrading passions and unnatural acts. The next step, God gives them up to a depraved mind.

Romans 1:28–32

“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, **God gave them up to a depraved mind, to do those things that are not proper**, people having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unfeeling, and unmerciful; 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 approve of those who practice them.” (NASB 2020)

Now it gets really personal. Since it is now obvious that God is against those who love themselves more than Him and He has given them up for that. A natural result is this, they hate their fellow man and what is listed next are those things that are done to others.

God has handed them over to a worthless mind. They no longer have God in their knowledge, and they no longer acknowledge God at all. If they did, then they would have recognized who created everything and would have encountered the living God in the person of Jesus Christ. That is not the case though.

People who have refused to acknowledge God end up with minds that are “disqualified” from being able to understand and acknowledge the will of God. The result, of course, is that they do things that are “not proper.” (Moo 1996, 118)

Welcome to the vice list, that is indeed what some call this. We begin with what folks are filled with rather than the Holy Spirit. Those who have rejected God are filled instead with unrighteousness, wickedness, greed and evil.

Stop and think about that for a moment and realize that is the exact state of many we interact with everyday.

Why is it we get scam phone calls everyday with promises of cheap loans, new roofs, better insurance, or government programs that do not exist in reality, because those behind it are filled with unrighteousness, wickedness, greed and evil.

Filled with means that Paul does not consider those who have reached this point about being half hearted about the sin in their life, they are serious about it. They are wholly given over to it. I worked with someone who was like that.

He was a good boss, but on a personal level, he was wholly given over to unrighteousness, wickedness, greed and evil. It was all about the next bonus check for him and the right kind of car and the right kind of clothes. He was not unethical in business, but after work, the hedges were gone. He always wanted to go to the club after work to drink and smoke; he did not like being alone to do so. He surrounded himself as much as possible with folks like him and they also had to be folks he could control as well. The last time I



talked with him he was on wife four or five, I don't think he even remembered how many times he had been married. In fact, I was told, by the company no less, to help cover up one of his indiscretions, but he had many more that eventually cost him his job. I was promoted and the manager I replaced had been involved in the same conduct and at work no less. It took 18 months to clean up the mess as the previous manager had even gone as far as hiring those with a like mind to his, I was propositioned by an employee my first day in the office to which I called Dianne as it was taking place since I was flabbergasted by it. And yes, they became a former employee as did many others.

Paul is using heavily inclusive terms here, for example, wickedness does indeed include everything that is about to follow and much more.

So now that we know what those who have reached this point are filled with, Paul drills down even further with more detail to add to the more generalized terms he has started with. These are folks who are full of envy. Stop with that right there and then ask the question, what are the results of envy? What does envying somebody or what they have, lead to. Murder, strife, deceit and malice, oh, and gossip too.

This hole just keeps getting darker and darker.

Paul starts with ultimate end of envy, murder and in the Greek, that actually creates assonance because of their pronunciation. Envy is phthonou and murder is phonou. Now about those other terms, and I am going to start at the end of the list with malice. Malice is the Greek word κακοηθείας (kakoētheias) which means "bad character, evil disposition, malignity...bad education, bad manners..malignant character." (Montanari 2015)

Envy begins with the one who is envious reflecting pretty much all of that over time.

Deceit is up next. That is δόλου (dolou) and it means "bait...ambush, stratagem, plot, trap...deception, artifice, trickery, fraud." (Montanari 2015)

I have worked in environments where there were others who wanted my job, in other words, envious. And what did I notice of their actions, all of those terms are applicable. I would say that there was one person who actually, when her job was eliminated, admitted to me that she had done all of that to try and get me fired.

And then there is strife.

That is the word ἔριδος (eridos). Real simple, this word means "strife, selfish rivalry, fighting; quarrels, quarreling." (Newman Jr. 1993, 72-73)

Proverbs 17:19

"One who loves wrongdoing loves strife; One who makes his doorway high seeks destruction." (NASB 2020)

Proverbs 28:25

"An arrogant person stirs up strife, But one who trusts in the LORD will prosper." (NASB 2020)

Someone who is envious of you or what you have is indeed many times an angry person and they are not happy unless something is going on. They are always stirring the pot.

I found out very early in my business career that when you drilled down and found the source of the strife in the workplace, it was usually a highly disgruntled person upset about something who, in every single



case I dealt with, was envious of others, angry and not performing to standard. I was always surprised by how nice it was at work after they were invited to seek employment elsewhere.

For us as followers of Jesus, we may have these things pop up every now or then, but they do not control us. Oh, and yes, I am including the murder in that. You see, we read the term murder, and it does indeed mean unlawful killing, but Jesus took that term and expanded on it for us in the Matthew 5.

Matthew 5:21–22

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.” (ESV)

So, let’s see, habitual behaviors that reveal the person as one who has been given up, includes anger, insulting behavior, wanting someone dead, wanting what someone else has, drives, lives in, works at, etc. This includes having a generally bad attitude and miserable disposition, a deceiver, an arguing person, someone who is never satisfied and is always stirring the pot because they want what they cannot have. And one more thing, there are also gossips. And Paul is going to dive a bit deeper.

Romans 1:30–32,

“slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unfeeling, and unmerciful; 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 approve of those who practice them.” (NASB 2020)

If we say slander, none of us would identify because that is just too dark a term, so let me Christianize it...gossip. Didn’t we just say gossip? Yes, we did, it is a problem in this world. Gossip is what happens when we spread “confidential” rumors about others.

Please join me in praying for our brother or sister in Christ, they are seriously struggling with adultery, or at least it looks like that to me. Now I have added to the gossip, a touch of slander. In other words, I am not happy with sharing my alleged prayer request with you, I also must manufacture a tidbit or morsel of salacious information to go along with it not because I want you to pray for that person, but I want their reputation destroyed. We have seen that going for months now, so to stop any concerns, yes, I am not in the Epstein files.

Again, these are folks who live to do this, you know, politicians. But all of us are in danger of sliding into that pit if we are not careful

Yes, this is indeed a list of sins being done by those who are serious about their sinning, but it is also a playbook for Satan for those things to try and draw a follower of Jesus into, usually gradually, but sometimes, in your face kind of stuff.

Someone comes to you for prayer and they have a serious sin problem they ask you to pray with them about. Before you go and share it with anyone else, ask them if you can and tell them who that will be. Let them make that call. That keeps us from being a gossip or a slanderer. Oh, and don’t fall into the trap of, “it’s not slander if its true.” You see, Paul follows those two thing up with the indictment that those who do so hate God.

Obviously that is true since the assumption is these are serious sinning folks here. And by injecting this right where he did, he is providing all of us a warning. Those who engage in the gossip and the slander are normally, also haters of God.



Next up we see the word insolent. The Greek word points to more than simple insolence. It is the word ὑβριστής (hubristas), and yes, we do indeed get the term hubris from this word. Pride. It means “violent, insolent, overbearing, arrogant, unbridled...wanton, given to pleasure.” (Montanari 2015)

And then insolent is followed by arrogant and boastful. Pride, pride and more pride. Guess where that comes from. Yep, Satan.

Isaiah 14:13–14

“For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’” (NLT)

Proverbs 8:13

“All who fear the LORD will hate evil. Therefore, **I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.**” (NLT)

There is nothing more disgusting than someone who is inordinately proud of their own accomplishments.

It’s bad enough to read your own press clippings, but when you begin to believe them and then quote them to others, that is serious pride. Over and over in the scriptures we see that God wants us to humble ourselves before Him. When we come to Christ, we come with nothing but our sin and in exchange for removing that sin and the penalty for it, He gives us eternal life and the Holy Spirit removing our sin from us and leaving us with nothing else that is truly ours. That means that everything that we are is because of Him. Not a whole lot to be proud of there is it.

Pride though can lead to places we are not interested in going to.

Paul provides a couple of the locations. Proud people who believe there is no accountability before God are inventors of evil. They excuse their behavior or actions as cultural, or new morality, or art. Pride also leads to disobedience to parents. What? Yes indeed, if we are proud and we know more than God, we definitely know more than our parents.

And then we come to the last four items. People who are all the above are indeed without understanding, untrustworthy, unfeeling and unmerciful. When you reject God and have lost your way to this point, you have no understanding at all.

Welcome to the world of the fool in Proverbs. In Proverbs, we meet several different folks, the fool, the scoffer and the wise. The fool is someone who is not saved and has no hope of getting there either. Because God has infinite wisdom, the person who neglects God will naturally miss out on wisdom—he will become a fool. A fool is anyone who does not follow the warnings and commands of God. A fool lacks wisdom, has no concern for others, does not desire to avoid sin, and brags about his sinful actions. (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

They are untrustworthy, unfeeling and unmerciful. We see that endpoint in many politicians on full display. Pray for them, God can indeed save anyone.

Verse 32 is the endpoint of all of this. It began with the rejection of God in creation and then has rolled downhill from that point to here.

Romans 1:32

“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 approve of those who practice them.” (NASB 2020)



The really sad thing, we see some so called Church leaders who have reached this point.

I must preface what I am about to say with it comes from the Religious Community for Reproductive Choice. In other words, folks who know what the Bible teaches and have decided on the path of cognitive dissonance instead. They say the following:

“RCRC works with spiritual leaders and organizations in local communities to lead interfaith, inclusive rituals of blessing in healthcare facilities and clinics where abortion services are provided. We affirm that the care and compassion given to pregnant individuals honor their full personhood – a personhood which cannot and must not be diminished for any reason. We affirm the work of abortion care as sacred.”  
(Religious Community for Reproductive Choice 2024)

Isaiah 5:20–23

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who change darkness into light and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter! Woe to those seeing themselves as wise, esteeming themselves as clever. Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, men whose power goes to mixing strong drinks, who acquit the guilty for bribes but deny justice to the righteous!” (CJB)

For those who reject Jesus Christ and opt instead to stay on this downward path, they have a future, and it is not one that I would wish on anyone.

Revelation 21:8

“But as for the cowardly, the untrustworthy, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those involved with the occult and with drugs, idol-worshippers, and all liars—their destiny is the lake burning with fire and sulfur, the second death.” (CJB)

Oscar Wilde summed it up well: “When the gods wish to punish us, they answer our prayers.” This is the wrath of God: to give us what we want too much, to give us over to the pursuit of the things we have put in place of him. The worst thing God can do to human beings in the present is to let them reach their idolatrous goals. (Keller 2014, 30)

But he has also provided a solution for us. We do not have to go this route and to the end point of an eternity separated from God. Jesus Christ came to this planet to die for our sins. As we read earlier, we are indeed all sinners, all of us, no exception. And unless we come to Jesus Christ and take advantage of what He did on the cross for us, there is no real future.

In Christ though, there is a future.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)



### ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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