

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

May 31, 2026 - Cornerstone Church

Sermon Text 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.

26 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.

28 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,

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.

1. Read the text of Romans 1:24-32 as a group. Consider first reading silently alone. Then read it with the person next to you and lastly read it out loud as group with a designated reader. Consider praying through this passage of God's Word (ex. *Father in heaven we praise your name for your clear truth. You clearly tell us who is sovereign and it is not us but you. Forgive us for our pride and arrogance and thank you for Jesus your Son our Savior and for your Spirit who opened up our blind eyes and softened our hard hearts...etc. etc.*)
2. Your friend Beth says "I am not really much of a worshipper. I am not really into worship myself but if others enjoy it good for them to each their own." How would you respond to Jill?
3. Briefly look back over the prior context before vs. 24-32 (Romans 1:1-23). What are some of the key points of the prior context before Romans 1:24-32? Why does it matter?
4. Why did God give them over (vs. 26)? What did God give them over to and why? What does the Apostle Paul claim is at the root of all sins (see especially vs. 25, 28)?
5. Read through the list of sins described in vs. 26-32. Which sins stand out to you? Are any of the sins listed unfamiliar to you? When any Christian commits one or some of these sins we ought to be reminded that they flow from idolatry. We must humbly repent quickly and look to God's grace in Christ asking the Spirit to help us worship God rightly. Since false worship is at the root of all sin, how does this change our approach to evangelism? Missions? Discipleship? Christian living? Family worship?
6. Biblical counselor Timothy Lane once wrote, "*We do not behave ourselves into sin; we worship ourselves into sin...It is not merely our behavior that has to be corrected, but a heart that needs deliverance from its sinfulness. We worship our way into sin and we must worship our way out of*

sin.” How does this quote by Timothy Lane relate well to Romans 1:24-32? (also read 2 Corinthians 3:18 for more)

7. You overhear a neighbor Claire say, “*Well Jesus never spoke against homosexuality, and the Bible never really addresses homosexuality with any real clarity. It is actually very ambiguous and hardly mentioned compared to other more major sins the Bible whispers about homosexuality at best.*” How would you respond to these claims by Claire?
8. Your coworker Bob approaches you and asks/asserts: “*Hey, you’re a Christian right? Here is a question: Why are you Christians so obsessed with LGBTQ sins. My brother is gay and is the nicest guy in the world. Why do so many of you Christian types seem like you are so bigoted and cruel to nice LGBTQ people who really just want to be left alone?*” How would you respond to Bob with grace and truth, love and wisdom?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:8-11 and then think how you might answer Bob
10. Whose salvation are you praying for who seems so hopeless right now? How does Romans 1:24-32 help you in your witness? Who are you witnessing to/sharing God’s gospel with? What challenges have you faced in this?
11. Pray for brothers and sisters in Christ suffering across the nations for the gospel. Pray for true Christians in the United States of America who are being mocked and belittled, slandered and scorned for their unwillingness to cave to pressure from those who would celebrate sins God hates and sins that are judgments of God (and expressions of His righteous wrath revealed). Pray God brings Spirit-wrought, biblically-faithful revival and reformation across our beloved but broken nation. Pray it is rooted in humbly repenting of sin, looking unto Christ alone, fearing God, walking in His wisdom, and being faithful disciples Pray the Lord is glorified in the efforts to bring about faithful obedience among the nations. Call upon the Lord together and plead for His grace in the lives of brothers and sisters in Nigeria and the middle east in Muslim dominated countries. Who else can you pray for who is laboring for the suffering for the gospel? Pray for the missionaries Cornerstone supports.