

Romans: Part 2
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Romans 1:18-2:24
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Romans 1 shows how humans took order and beauty and degraded into chaos

Read Romans 1:18-25 (NIV)

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

*How do you see what Paul is describing as a worship problem?

*What does it mean that God gives us over to our sinful desires?

*What are some idols our generation prefers to worship? What idol are you most worshipping in your life right now?

Paul is demonstrating that without Jesus, we are the same

Read and discuss Romans 1:26-2:4 (NIV)

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

*²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. **2** You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. **2** Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

*Who is Paul talking to in these verses? What does he want his listeners, and us, to understand?

*How are portions of this passage read that allow us to justify or judge? How does Paul level the playing field?

*How does remembering who, when, and why Paul was writing this help us to interpret this passage?

It is the kindness of God that unmakes human rebellion

If we have received that kindness, it is an affront to God when we do not extend that same kindness to others.

*How does the Gospel force us to see ourselves? How can this knowledge help us to view other people?

*What are ways we can stay connected to the kindness and grace of Jesus?

*How is he asking you to acknowledge the sin of judgement in your life?