

A Spiritual History of Humanity

Romans 1:18-32

We are all probably a bit selective in how we think about sin, right? Some sins provoke a strong reaction and others are no big deal. We view various sins differently based on our vantage point - our experience and our involvement with those sins. Today's passage in Romans 1 looks at sin from **God's** vantage point. As the Creator and designer of everything, God has a unique vantage point. From His vantage point every sin is a distortion of His created order. God created humanity to bear His image throughout the entire earth, but we (as humanity) have rejected Him and His design. In Romans 1:18-32, Paul gives something of a "spiritual history" of the human race and he makes it clear that the entire human race is under the power of sin; we are all "without excuse."

Opening Discussion: When was the first time in your life that you began to have an awareness that you were under the power of sin and "without excuse" before God?

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. What sticks out to you in this passage?

2. How has God revealed himself to all people?

3. How does this passage describe the universality of mankind's sinfulness?

4. What aspects of God's character or design did mankind exchange for something else (vv. 23, 25, 26-27)?

5. Three times Paul says that God responded to mankind's sinfulness by giving them over (vv. 24, 26, 28). To what did He give them over?

6. How would you summarize the kinds of things that are described as being “not proper” (v. 28)?

7. How does this passage help you see sin from God’s vantage point?

8. What struggles, questions or concerns do you have coming out of this study?

Note about the topic of homosexuality raised in this passage:

Steve said:

Homosexuality is such a prominent issue in our culture that next week we’ll “push the pause button” on our study in Romans and discuss how we as followers of Christ should think about this issue. As most of you know, this is more than a hypothetical theological discussion for most of us. People we love and care about (family members, friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, etc.) struggle with same-sex attraction. Perhaps you yourself struggle with same-sex attraction; maybe you’ve never talked with another person about it. For this and other reasons, we need to understand the mind of Christ on how to think about homosexuality.