



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE
Romans
Romans 1:25-27
The Exchange of God-Given
Sexual Boundaries
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Romans 1:21-32

Three Exchanges

1. Vs. 23 People exchanged God for idols.
2. Vs. 25 People exchanged the truth of God for the lie.
3. Vs. 26 People exchanged natural sexuality for perversion.

Three "Handing Overs"

1. Vs. 24 People are handed over to lust of their hearts.
2. Vs. 26 People are handed over to degrading passions.
3. Vs. 28 People are handed over to a depraved mind.

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God Gives Mankind Over to Perversion

Romans 1:25-26 NET **They exchanged the truth of God for a lie** and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. 26 For this reason **God gave them over** to dishonorable passions. For their **women** exchanged the **natural** sexual relations for **unnatural** ones...

- Woman = "theylus" – used specifically to denote the sexual distinctiveness of a woman from a man.

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and **female** He created them.

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Homosexuality Will Be Judged By God

Romans 1:27 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.**

- Men = “arseyn” – deliberately chosen in order to link to creation and O.T. passages that condemn homosexuality.

Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

- Due = “dei” – divine necessity. God must punish this sin!

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Applications

1. We must know that the world’s approval of homosexuality is based on perverted feelings and not on the truth from God’s word.
2. Homosexuality and all sexual sin is a violation of God’s design for human sexuality.
3. Jesus Christ can forgive any sinner if they will come to Him on His terms.

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1. Defense of Homosexuality Is Groundless

1. Objection: Some claim that Paul’s usage of “natural” and “unnatural” in Romans 1:26 indicates that Paul was merely following his own cultural prejudices rather than stating that homosexuality is a violation of God’s moral will.

Rebuttal: Paul is using “natural” in the sense of how God designed human sexuality.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor **effeminate, nor homosexuals**, **10** nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

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1. Defense of Homosexuality Is Groundless

2. Objection: Some claim that the only prohibitions against homosexuality are found in the Old Covenant and are therefore no longer binding.

Rebuttal: No, the New Covenant, which is mediated by Jesus Christ, clearly teaches that homosexuality is sin against God.

1 Timothy 1:8-10 But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, 9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but **for those who are lawless and rebellious**, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers 10 and immoral men and **homosexuals** and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching...

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1. Defense of Homosexuality Is Groundless

3. Objection: Modern men and women don't "feel" that homosexuality is wrong.

Rebuttal: Isaiah 41:22-23 NET Let them produce evidence! Let them tell us what will happen! Tell us about your earlier predictive oracles, so we may examine them and see how they were fulfilled. Or decree for us some future events! 23 **Predict how future events will turn out, so we might know you are gods.** Yes, do something good or bad, so we might be frightened and in awe.

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1. Defense of Homosexuality Is Groundless

4. Objection: The homosexual movement in America just wants "tolerance."

Rebuttal: Biblical Christianity forbids mistreatment of sinners under the New Covenant.

Romans 12:19-21 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but **leave it to the wrath of God**, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**

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2. Marriage: God's Design for Sexuality

Matthew 19:3-6 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

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3. Jesus Can Forgive Any Sinner

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 fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 **Such were some of you**; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

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