

HOMOSEXUALITY  
AND THE BIBLE  
SERIES

# Romans 1



I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God  
for salvation to everyone  
who believes...

Romans 1:16

## **What does the Bible mean when it talks about men leaving the use of women and turning to men, and women with women?**

What people call homosexual has two different meanings and the Bible verses that people use against homosexuality only refers to one of those two meanings. Romans chapter one is the most controversial scripture on the subject, yet it is the most clear of all. But if people want to twist, and make the Bible into something it's not then they have the opportunity to use it against people instead of for God's purposes of salvation for all people.

The overwhelming majority of homosexuals today are not pedophiles, rapists, or whatever else is unfaithful. Truth be known, heterosexuals do a lot more of those things than homosexuals, even though the news and traditional Christian media shows homosexuals as if that's all they do; this is completely untrue.

### **Romans 1**

21 ...when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Right off the bat this portion of scripture makes it clear that it is talking about people who did not glorify or thank God. Nobody else, just people who wanted nothing to do with God. This will be repetitively confirmed again and again throughout this portion of scripture.

23 And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Not only are the people this portion of scripture is talking about clearly un-Godly, they are testing and antagonizing God defiantly by making statues like humans, birds, four-footed animals, and lizards to replace their worship of God with.

Take note: in order to not serve and worship God, something else has to take God's place in our heart to serve and worship.

Paul is writing this letter to Rome after his missionary tour of the Mediterranean. On his journey Paul had seen great temples built to honor Aphrodite, Diana, and other fertility gods and goddesses of sex and passion instead of the one true God the apostle honors. Apparently, these priests and priestesses engaged in some odd sexual behaviors -- including castrating themselves, carrying on drunken sexual orgies, and even having sex with young temple prostitutes (male and female) -- all to honor the gods of sex and pleasure.

Mel White

**24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:**

It would go to reason that God was under pressure to give up on these people because their desire was to destroy their own bodies and each others.

**25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

The people being spoken about were defiantly using God's truth to make others believe that worshiping each other's body was indirectly worshiping God.

When we live for pleasure, when we forget that we are God's children and that God has great dreams for our lives, we may end up serving the false gods of sex and passion, just as they did in Paul's time. In our obsession with pleasure, we may even walk away from the God who created us -- and in the process we may cause God to abandon all the great dreams God has for our lives.

Did these priests and priestesses get into these behaviors because they were lesbian or gay? I don't think so. Did God abandon them because they were practicing homosexuals? No. Read the text again.

Mel White

**26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:**

"Vile" means wicked, or a better term would be "anti-God". This verse is describing women pleasuring themselves, probably using the idols, to be worshiped as if to worship themselves was to worship God. Now that is against nature, or unnatural, as the verse says!

**27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.**

Men were no better, using each other to worship themselves as if it was indirectly worshiping God. There is such a thing as a natural use of the woman, but these men weren't simply having sex with men, they changed their beliefs to reject anyone having intercourse between men and women for the express purpose of defying God. These men did things that purposefully distorted and abused themselves and each other in ways that destroyed their own bodies; most likely very painful and very bloody. Historical records describe regular rituals including cutting off their genitals and slowly torturing many to death. These kinds of things are obviously "unseemly" and surprisingly still occur in some extreme groups today.

Take Note: Lust is the decision to pursue anything you want even if it is not consensual to all that decision personally involves.

**28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;**

Again, this is going back to confirming that the people being discussed are only people who are defiant toward God and don't even want to think about God. God does not force Himself on anyone so, in such a situation as this, He has no choice but to let them do whatever they choose to do. Here it says that if someone falls under this category of God-defying people, then they will have a reprobate mind; in other words, they go to every extent they can think of to defy God, no matter how inconvenient and uncomfortable it might be.



The homosexuals I know have not rejected God at all; they love God and they thank God for his grace and his gifts. How, then, could they have been abandoned to homosexuality as a punishment for refusing to acknowledge God? And the homosexual people I know do not lust after each other anymore than heterosexual people do... their love for one another is likely to be just as spiritual and personal as any heterosexual love can be. Getting to know a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person of faith will help you realize that it is unreasonable (and unjust) to compare our love for each other to the rituals of the priests and priestesses who pranced around the statues of Aphrodite and Diana. Once again, I feel certain this passage says a lot about God, but nothing about homosexuality as we understand it.

Dr. Louis B. Smedes

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, hatefulness; whisperers,  
30 Backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,  
31 Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:  
32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Still only talking about people who are acting out of defiance toward God, this is a list of some of the things that these people do. Verse 31 specifically points out those who refuse to be understanding or compassionate and verse 32 shows that these people are not just doing these things by mistake or for no reason, but they are doing them to get pleasure in spite of God and His compassion for people.

Paul was saying that things were different among these particular people than the norm. These people were convincing others to leave churches to come join them in their ritualistic deception. There are underground groups of people very much like this today. Matthew 24 speaks of how many of the most devout Christians would be deceived into things like this in the last days.

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christ's, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

So, was Romans Chapter 1 talking about homosexuals who are faithful, dedicated, and openly love the Lord with all their heart? It is a disservice to God's Word to twist this scripture around to try to say such a thing and exclude homosexuals from full participation in church.

## Romans 2

1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judges: for wherein thou judges another, thou condemns thyself; for thou that judges doest the same things.

How is it that people think they can judge, condemn and debate against others salvation and love for God when the previous verses before this one clearly describes such horrible activities against God and this verse tells us not to judge them. Here, it goes so far as to say that if someone judges people for such things then they are just as guilty as what they are accusing others of as well as everything else listed above.

You'll also note that Romans 2 begins with "Therefore, [referring to Romans 1], you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself..." Even after he describes the disturbing practices he has seen, Paul warns us that judging others is God's business, not ours.

Dr. Louis B. Smedes

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

How is it that people claim to have faith in God but then don't have enough faith to believe that God is the only one who can and will judge them; rather than trying to act on God's behalf ourselves?

3 And do you think this, O man, that judges them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shall escape the judgment of God?

We are assured that if we judge people, even if they do such things, then we cannot escape the judgment of God.

Note: Even though we can judge for ourselves not to do the same things, we are definitely not to judge or call them condemned or exclude anyone.

4 Or do you despise the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance?

We have to ask ourselves if we purposefully ignore God's extravagant goodness, tolerance, and endurance that makes Him able to patiently and humbly lead every person to Himself; possibly to try to make ourselves look better than others who do things we wouldn't.

No, none of this scripture that has been so divisively used to claim that homosexual people are condemned to hell is about homosexuals who are faithful, dedicated, and openly love the Lord with all their heart. There is no difference described here between GLBT and non-GLBT people. These scriptures are only talking about people who are defiant toward God no matter what gender or sexual orientation they are.

*Jesus didn't turn people away  
He didn't judge or condemn them  
He made extra efforts to care for the least likely to reach  
And He saved everyone as we are  
without expectations to do anything to save ourselves*

*So, why would we be any different?  
Why should we judge or condemn?  
Why should we exclude anyone  
from the love of Christ in us?  
Why should we expect anyone to do anything  
to be worthy of salvation?  
We can't, that's why we reach out to everyone  
and leave the rest to Him.*

*You are welcome here!*

### **Romans 3**

9 What then? Are we better than they? No, in no way: because we have proven before that both Jews and Gentiles, they are all under sin;

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

### **Matthew 7**

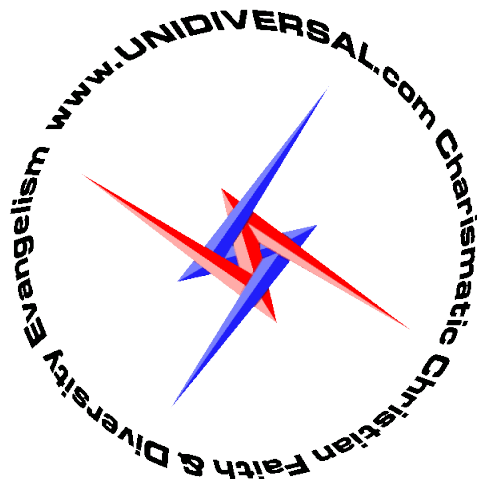
1 Judge not, that you be not judged.

2 For with whatever judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

Robbie Ousley  
UCF Founder, Pastor, & Diversity Evangelist

---

Credit: Quotations in borders are from "What the Bible Says And Doesn't Say About Homosexuality by Rev. Mel White, cofounder of Soulforce



**The Central Source,  
Creator, and Focus of Existence,  
otherwise known as God,  
loves with confidence in YOU!**

Unidiversal, PO Box 33, Pierceton IN 46562