



ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- Theology is **understanding** God and our faith.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Romans 1:16-17 (NIV)

...but the righteous shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4 (ESV)

Definition of faith:

Faith = A **belief** that we **act** upon.

The reason we need the good news is this:

- We are all desperately **sinful**.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. Romans 1:18 (ESV)

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Romans 1:18 (ESV)

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20 (ESV)

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. Romans 1:21-23 (NIV)

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. 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.

Romans 1:24-27 (NIV)

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. Romans 1:28-32 (NIV)

The point he is giving us is this:

- We desperately need **Jesus**.

The downward cycle of sin.

- We **disregard** God.

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. Romans 1:21 (NIV)

“Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.” Hebrews 3:15

- We **redefine** God.

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. Romans 1:22-23

- We eliminate **sexual restraints**.

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Romans 1: 24-27 (NIV)

...God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity...Romans 1:24

- We do away with all **personal restraints**.

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Two lessons to take home:

- This list doesn't show us why **others** need Jesus; It shows us why **we** need Jesus.

- The solution to a downward cycle of sin is opening our heart to **Jesus**.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you think people generally find “theology” to be boring? Why is our theology so important?
- Why is it important that our understanding of “faith” is based on our actions?
- Why is it important that we understand that God's wrath is being revealed against ALL unrighteousness?
- The first step in the downward cycle of sin is disregarding God. How do we disregard God?
- We don't tend to make “images” that we worship, but how do people redefine God to fit their lifestyle?
- Remember, God's wrath is against ALL unrighteousness, not just homosexuality. Do you believe that people in church tend to excuse other sexual sins in their life? Why do people wrongly believe homosexuality as being worse than other sins?
- It's obvious that sexual impurity is growing in the world; do you also see it growing in the lives of believers?
- When we do away with personal restraints it affects how we treat people. Would you say that these are things we deal with in our lives? Do we excuse them? How do we address them?
- Do these scriptures show your need for Jesus?

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Today's Talk..



The Downward Cycle Of Sin

Sunday, May 26th, 2024

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