



Empowering People to Change the World

The Judgement and the Trinity of God's Love

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Judgment and the Trinity of God's Love

The last two studies in Romans have shown us a clear regression into sin, both as individuals and as a society. But God is so long suffering.

Even when we study what happened with Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 18-19:

- God told Abraham ahead of time that the evil of Sodom and Gomorrah was so great that He planned to destroy the cities.
- Abraham asked God to spare the cities and God in His amazing grace was willing if there could be found just ten righteous people.

In the first chapter of Romans, there was a clear statement that all men were without excuse because the truth of God has been written clearly...

Step 1: Suppress truth. (Verses 18-20)

Step 2: Futility of thoughts. (Verse 21)

- When you have no truth to guide you, you move toward anarchy in your mind and in society—we become confused; logic is perverted because we now don't have a rudder; we don't have truth.

Step 3: Idolatry of people. (Verses 22-23)

Our idols become people, the human body...

Crossing the rubicon of God's giving us over to our passions: "you can have it your way."

Step 4: God gives people over to uncleanness and lusts of the heart. (Verses 24-25)

- I talked about The Sexual Revolution and Alfred Kinsey.
- I talked casual sex (the Hook-up culture).

Step 5: God gives People over to Vile Unnatural Passions (Verses 26-27)

- I spoke on the harm to your body through homosexuality.

Step 6: God gives people over to a debased mind. (Verse 28)

- In Hebrew debased (*adokimos*) means the deterioration of the mind—the weakening of the mind.

- The truth is, the most powerful sex organ in your body is your brain!
- And when we abuse sex, look at pornography, and have multiple sexual partners we are abusing our brains, even our neurochemicals of dopamine, oxytocin, and vasopressin, which are designed for pleasure AND bonding, become confused and rewire our brain toward depravity. It weakens our ability to think straight.

Now Paul is calling all of us out! All of us have done some of the following sins in our life.

The Dirty 23

Romans 1:28-32

- Paul is taking all of us to court here. I'm so convicted by these verses.
- He is not just condemning the unrighteous but also the self-righteous.
- We have all been POSERS: posing as the good Church going Christian but secretly involved in behavior that goes against our conscience.
- We have seen a lot of this with a number of well-known Christian leaders and pastors through the years.
- We have no excuse, none of us have any excuses for our self-righteousness.
- Paul's point: We all deserve death!

Now in Chapter 2, we will read that man has no excuses because the truth of God has been written upon his conscience.

Paul moves from the general plural in Chapter 1, to the specific singular in Chapter 2.

- Look back at verse 20, God has revealed His Nature through Creation.
- In Chapter 2, God will reveal Himself through our Conscience.

God uses His Creation and Our Conscience to reveal Himself to man.

Romans 2:1

- The key word is *inexcusable*.

- The first chapter says in effect: Did you ever look at nature?
- Now, our passage says: Have you ever criticized anyone?
- Paul is painting a picture for the Jewish moralist, the religious and the self-righteous, that they are all without excuse. The word *judge* is used; in the New Testament it is used two hundred eleven times.
- We all tend to condemn the wrong people and condone the wrong people!
 - We wouldn't criticize someone if we didn't have a conscience.
 - We would not criticize another if we didn't recognize sin in others.
 - We can't criticize sin in others if we weren't aware of the existence of sin.
 - But then, the question is "have you ever not lived up to the light of your own conscience?"
 - In other words, if you have ever been critical of others, you have condemned yourself.
 - For even the finest critic has been guilty in some degree of the thing he has judged another!
 - We always break the rules we set.
- We are all guilty! We are all guilty of judging others and have no excuse.
- As a matter of fact, sometimes I am the greatest critic of the faults in others in the areas that I have similar faults.

Verses 2-3

- We tend to think God is grading on the curve: "I'm not quite as bad as that person..."
- This is a question for all of us as individuals to deal with.
- Someone has said: "The greatest reason why you should prepare to meet your God is because you must meet your God."
- If you ask a person why they are going to the doctor, they will tell you why...if you ask a person why they are going to the dentist, they will

instantly know why...there is a kind of practical necessity to all we do and so it will be with God.

- The Bible clearly states,

“And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment...” (Hebrews 9:27)

Our passage says, “judgment of God according to Truth (not speculation)”: All of us will stand before God, the Judge, and He will decide our case.

- Once my wife was to be brought before a judge for a seeming traffic violation. She prepared her case with testimony, a video, and photos...

She prepared because she knew that there was an appointed time for her trial to stand before a judge. She would have only one chance to present herself—either innocent or guilty.

- All of us will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

Romans 14:10-12

“But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written:

‘As I live, says the LORD,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God.’
So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”

- So, how we judge others will determine our own case before God, our judge.

Jesus said, “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” (Matthew 7:2)

- Again, the point is that we all judge! We all judge others and are we perfectly living up to our own standards?
- There is a day coming when we will meet the Lord...are you ready to stand before Christ?
 - He will ask, “Why should I let you into heaven?”

- If you are preparing to point to your own self-righteousness and acts of service, you will be rejected.

- Isaiah 64:6

“But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.”

- Romans 3:23

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

- We deceive ourselves.

- Like the mirrors at the amusement parks which make a tall man look short and a thin man look fat...our hearts deceive ourselves.

- Jeremiah 17:9

"The heart is deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?"

- We all tend to justify ourselves.

- In Plato's Republic, we find the Greek philosopher saying, “Just as poets always like their own poems and parents love their own children, so those who have made their own fortunes are delighted with their wealth, as the work of their own hands.”

- In the seventeenth century Glanvill wrote, “While all complain of our ignorance and error, everyone exempts himself.”

- We are reading that we have no excuses! We have the truth as stated here.

- The German writer Goethe (who wrote the great literary work, *Faust*) once said, “Man is a darkened being, he knows little of the world and least of all himself. I know not myself, and God forbid that I should.”

We close the psychology books that constantly tell us that we are basically good...

We close the sociology books that tells us that we are excusable because it's the culture that has created all these problems...

And then we open the Bible and we read:

- We are a direct result of God's creation. Indeed, that we are His highest creation, created in His image for His love.
 - But we have sinned against His righteousness and are all in rebellion to Him.
 - We read that God sent His Son, Jesus, to redeem and restore us back into a personal relationship with Him.
- We think that there is something to salvage within ourselves, but we are all dark and doomed.
 - "...the judgment of God is according to truth..."
 - We must have the truth to be set free: Paul is building a case for truth.
 - Barnhouse writes, "The man who confesses that he is in utter bankrupt apart from the revelation of God in Christ as recorded in the Bible can reach the highest plane of knowledge of himself and his world because he has begun by obtaining the truth as it has been given to us by God."

Verse 4

- God's long arm of grace and love is constantly reaching out to us.
- The earth continues with clean fresh water and rain because of the love of God...delaying His judgment to give us more time to repent and come to Him.
- It is love of Christ that wins the heart...it is when God gracefully gives someone the revelation of the loving and wonderful cross of Jesus Christ, that their heart and mind are transformed.
- I despised the love of God:
 - For all those years I had "despised" the love of God!
 - Despising means "looking down one's nose at."

- I had despised His goodness, forbearance, and long suffering!
- We reject His grace and eternal love.
 - Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - And this is why we are all still alive, listening to this message today...if you are not a believer in Christ, the fact that God has not yet sent you to the lake of fire for your rebellion against Him, is because of His love and grace...He keeps giving you chance after chance to repent and come to know Him.
 - The supreme act of love: a God Man, Jesus died in our place on a rugged, jagged, and brutal cross.

God has given man a common grace: a grace for all of the human race.

- This is a grace that brings blessing to all of man and allows all of us to have health, live in peace, and amass fortunes.
- A kind of trinity of blessing is ours because of His love: goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering.
 - Goodness comes from God:
 - Used nine times in the New Testament.
 - It speaks of His moral goodness.
 - Another word would be *kindness*.
 - Forbearance also comes from God.
 - It means toleration.
 - In classical Greek it generally means “to hold back; a delaying.”
 - He is not tolerant of your sin, rather He loves you and He is giving you a chance to repent before judgment is released.

- God holds back His judgment giving one the opportunity to say “yes” to Him.
- Longsuffering comes from God.
 - This is close in proximity of forbearance in that God’s love is slow in avenging wrongs.
 - It is the idea of giving the easy side of the yoke...meaning that He takes the yoke to make it easier for us.
 - Giving grace repeatedly.

The purpose of God’s goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering is to lead us to repentance.

- Repentance is a soldier’s term: “an about face”, to change direction.
- A little boy in his Sunday school class said that repentance is being “sorry for our sin.” A little girl then said, “it’s being sorry enough to quit.”
- But it’s more than both!
- If you are facing north, you pivot and face south!
- Facing yourself? Instead of confidence in yourself, you place all of your confidence and hope in Christ.

Verses 5-6

- The unrepentant sinner is running out of room and time.
- God is giving opportunity to repent, but if you don’t know Christ as your Savior, you are storing up wrath.
- He is hoping that His goodness will lead you to repentance.
- But the wrath of God is building up, building up, building up.
- And someday it will be revealed.
- We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- Wrath’s day is coming: you don’t want *pay back* you want mercy!

Verses 7-11

- God is just: He rewards good and condemns evil.
- But, lest we think that our good works is what makes us righteous, look at Romans 3.
 - Romans 3:10-12
- We don't lack for knowing, we lack for doing.
- It is only the grace of God that enables us to do good.
- So, if you come today and you haven't given your heart to Christ, if you think you are righteous, but you haven't bent your knee to Christ—turn away from your self-righteousness; it's filthy rags and turn toward the goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering of Jesus.
- He loves you!
- The evidence for a God of love is: Two C's.
 1. Creation itself and all of its complexity and beauty.
 2. Your Conscience: if you have ever judged or condemned anyone, you have a law written upon your heart, given by God.

He comes through His trinity of Love:

- He offers goodness.
- He offers forbearance.
- He is longsuffering.

Isaiah 1:18-19

"Come now, and let us reason together,"
 Says the LORD,
 "Though your sins are like scarlet,
 They shall be as white as snow;
 Though they are red like crimson,
 They shall be as wool.
 If you are willing and obedient,
 You shall eat the good of the land;..."