

Romans Part One: What It Takes to Change the World – Fourth Week

Sexuality, Media and Culture

How Cultures Unravel, pt. 2 – Romans 1:24-32

Introduction: In Romans 1:18-32 Paul claims that God's wrath is revealed from heaven because people resist and reject the truth about him. That wrath, rather than being expressed as instant judgment, is expressed as God giving people over to the natural course of their atheism. This morning we look at the natural consequences of practical atheism in a culture, and what we can do to reach people.

1. *A REVIEW: WHY CULTURES UNRAVEL – God gives people and cultures over to the natural consequences of their sin. Romans 1:18-25*

- A. God's wrath is revealed from heaven because people resist truth about God.
- B. God's wrath is expressed not in instant judgment but in the act of giving people over to choices.
- C. God gives people over in three areas: lust of their hearts, degrading passions, depraved mind.

2. *IN THE PRIVATE ARENA – Sexuality becomes unrestrained.*

Romans 1:26-27

- A. Paul uses the example of homosexuality. 1:26-27
- B. We must understand Paul's clear teaching on homosexuality. 1:26-27
- C. We must understand the larger context of our culture.
- D. Result – Many have experienced the devastating natural consequences of sexual immorality. 1:27b

3. *THE PUBLIC ARENA – Secular values are championed by the chief communicators within the culture. Romans 1:28-32*

- A. As Paul develops the passage, he seems to be talking about the activity of cultural leaders.
- B. Cultural leaders give approval to secular values. 1:28, 32
- C. What the secular values look like. Paul mentions...

4. *RESPONSE – So how do we reach secular non-Christians?*

- A. We need to build prayer-based/non-judgmental relationships. John 4; John 8
- B. We need to disciple those who come to Christ so that they can reach their friends.