

**Total Depravity**  
**2021-10-10**

Romans 1:24-32

*24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

*26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.*

*28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.*

*They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

That's not me...I don't look like that! *Tx lic. pic*

- Texts are like holding up mirror: show who we really are and why the gospel is necessary.
  - All are sinful by nature, totally depraved and deserve judgment.

Sin begins: reject the truth of God and worship creature rather Creator. *Romans 1:22-25, Ephesians 2:3*

- "lie" refers to lie of idolatry. tend to believe lies that reinforce own selfish desires.
  - Sit in judgment of God and decide to move ahead without Him.

gives what want/desire: pulls back His restraining grace and allows us to experience horrible degrading/dehumanizing consequences of sin. prodigal Ps 106:15

- Allowing us to reap what we sow displays God's grace/love: He is not giving up on us but using it to lead us to repentance/salvation.
  - Consequences are not predictable but inevitable and prove choices matter

3x "gave over/up" = turn someone over to punishment or executioner.

- Satan becomes agent of God as sin becomes the punishment of sin.

Give over fleshly desire/lust results in dishonor body/impurity.

- impurity Literally means contents of a grave. came to mean rot, filth, decay, dirt.
  - Impurity refers to all sexual activities condemned by God.
- God designed sex as restricted to monogamous, heterosexual marriages.
  - Outside of that context, dishonor bodies and defile selves with impurity.

Given over to natural and unnatural desires. Romans 1:26-27, Leviticus 18:22,

- “natural” means in sync with Creator purpose/design.
  - Natural/biological function is sexual relations with opposite sex in marriage.
- homosexual behavior strictly forbidden in Scripture,
  - No scientific evidence, but if genetic still sin to practice.
    - genetically prone to heterosexual lust, alcohol but still sins.

If struggle with same sex attraction...Don't define God-given personhood by your disordered sexuality.

- Repent and resolve to live chaste and if necessary, celibate by Holy Spirit's power.
  - Parents: love grown kids with same sex attraction, pray, speak truth in love, entrust to God

“Preach to THEM, bro!” No one is innocent, all are full of evil. Romans 1:28-32

- Debased (worthless) minds ...lost ability to distinguish between right/wrong.
- 21 sins not comprehensive, not everyone has all 21 sins or in same measure.
- gets worse: encourage/approve practice sin...full extent of depravity

Total depravity: result of Fall sin nature control. Mark 7:21-23, 10:18, Psalm 14:3, Isaiah 64:6

- does not mean sinful as could, without sense right/wrong, not/can't good from human perspective. but NO spiritual good or ability be good terms with God relational.

Picture us: wicked so deep, total without excuse, deserve judgment 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 12:1

- Desperate need of forgiveness and entire nature to be miraculously transformed.
  - Is hope for transformation for totally depraved sinful nature.
    - Through Gospel, God's saving, transforming grace available to all.