



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 1:18-32
- Genesis 1:26-28; 2:21-25
- I Corinthians 6:18-20
- I Thessalonians 4:3-7

IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

- God's Visible Attributes
- The Gateway Sin
- A Cascade of Sins
- Purity and an Orderly Life

SEED:

"Then God said, "**Let Us make man in Our image**, according to **Our likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them**. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply; ...**" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and **He took one of his ribs**, and closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman**, and **He brought her to the man**." Genesis 2:21-22 NKJV

FRUIT:

“For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power **and Godhead**, so that they are **without excuse**,” Romans 1:18-20 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY’S SCRIPTURES:

Last week in [From Faith to Faith](#) (Romans 1:1-17)... It’s been a long hard journey, an estimated twenty-two years since that fateful day of his conversion on the Road to Damascus. Paul has faced severe challenges, slanderous accusations, constant rejection, and near-death persecution more than once. And yet, as of the writing of Romans in 58 AD, Paul, although a Roman citizen, had never been to Rome. When the letter was recorded, he was still three years from actually arriving in Rome for the first time—and even then it was under oppressive conditions. His final journey took the better part of three years, two of those years he spent in chains and the final year included a shipwreck that nearly claimed the lives of 276 men, including his own. Yet, Paul’s desire to go to Rome never wavered, evidenced by his constant prayers to do so.

In this letter which he sends ahead of his eventual visit, he introduces himself as a bondservant and apostle. A Hebrew bondservant is a slave who has the right to go free, but volunteers to stay in service of his master forever, and Paul identifies as such for reasons we will soon explore in some detail. An apostle can be thought of as an explorer, one who is sent forward into new territory, equipped with both prophetic and pastoral qualities. Prophetic qualities are those characteristics that inspire exploration and the uncovering of truth. Apostles, although not sitting in the office of the Prophet, have great appreciation and understanding of the prophetic and deep regard for the roll and authority of the Prophet and his ministry. Pastoral qualities are the character traits necessary to evangelize, guide, shepherd, educate and minister to the communities that were planted during exploratory journeys.

Paul recognizes that it was God who sovereignly set him apart for an assignment beginning on the Road to Damascus, but also that this good news he is spreading, teaching that Y'shua is the Messiah, is that which was prophesied in the Holy Scriptures. He would be from the line of David; He would be the Holy Son of God imbued with resurrection power. The power and anointing to bring this message and to obey God comes from God alone and is meant to spread His Name worldwide. Paul tells his readers that they are loved by God, recognized as saints, not sinners, and that they have

access to God's divine power, which should cover them with a supernatural calm.

Let's get right to it and let me say this as if each of you is a personal recipient of this letter, as were those in Rome. *"You are the type of Christians who can handle the intricacies and complexities of this letter because of your excellence in the faith, which has also given you a stellar reputation."* Paul is so intent on getting to Rome that he testifies that he simply cannot stop praying that God would make a way for him to visit. He wants to download spiritual gifts to them, which he shares in detail later in the letter, gifts which would help them mature even further in their walk with Christ. Plus, he is certain that their growth would be very inspiring, not only for them, but for himself. Paul makes it obvious that his desire to get to Rome has been ongoing, but delayed. He wants to preach in Rome about salvation and the kingdom, and to produce fruit in Rome as he has among other nations on his three missionary journeys. He feels he owes this to people of every background and belief.

Why? Because he is proud and honored to share the message of Christ. Of course the gospel was initially preached to save the Jews, but God's heart is that the Greeks, and every other type of Gentile hears the message of salvation as well. The gospel is both simple and complex. First, God's righteousness is revealed supernaturally into your heart by His grace and you get to participate in the faith;

that's the simple part because you did nothing to deserve it, earn it, or acquire it. Then you move on and practice that faith every day—the often complicated and challenging life of becoming a disciple, as you walk out your faith, from faith to faith. And that is both the simplicity and complexity of what the ancient Scriptures meant long ago by, “The just shall live by faith.” You are justified by the free gift of faith and then you live by that faith, which will likely cost you everything.

This week in Romans 1:18-32... As we've learned, the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel of Christ and now we see that those who suppress the truth of God are in big trouble. And we will soon see that it is not just the gospel, but the very nature of God that has been shown to these deniers. How exactly did God reveal Himself? He manifested it inside of them! And how did He do that? At creation, He did something so that all of mankind would recognize who He was, the one and only God. He created man in His own image. And He did so in such a way that no person, at any time in history, no matter their culture, creed, place of origin, heritage, or nationality, could use as the excuse that, “They weren't shown; no one told them!”

What is really happening when someone doesn't recognize the one true God, or believes there is no God, or worships a false god, or prefers many gods, or says he believes there is a god, but he's just

not certain which one is real? Deep down inside, they do know who He is. They just refuse to glorify Him. If you are one of them, this is the warning. Do that too long and God will turn you over to your depraved thoughts. In other words, the price of your foolishness is that the natural light in your heart will grow dim and eventually turn black. From there you'll be apt to worship just about anything: man, animals, and even insects!

Once you are committed to believing this lie about God, you will be open to worshiping anything, even inanimate objects. And the result is that you will become obsessed with lust, especially sexual lust. This could potentially manifest in every type of sexual perversion; gender confusion being chief among them. If you refuse to acknowledge God, your debased mind will lead to dark places and sexual immorality of every type. And then gender confusion and sexual sin become the gateway to every other type of iniquity. Don't be fooled; God's righteous judgment is coming against all sin. And even worse than those trapped in their sin are those who approve of such futile thoughts, vile passions, and lustful behaviors. None of these players will escape God's wrath, but the hottest fire is reserved for those who promote such depravity.

"Think in Bible." DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Set-apart from all other creation, God uniquely created mankind to truly know Him. For that to happen, He created us “in His Image.” First He created Adam, who had within him, both male and female DNA. All men do! And even before Adam had a companion in the garden, God called Adam “them” and said, “This is My image,” and told him/them to multiply and fill the earth. For that to be possible, hidden within Adam, this visible male, was both a woman and child. Even while he was standing alone in the garden, they were inside him already, just not visible. But, they could not remain invisible if mankind was meant to know God, to understand what it means to be created in God’s image. His invisible attributes had to become clear for everyone to see He is the only real God. After that, no one could offer ignorance as an excuse.

So, God took some female DNA from Adam and fashioned a woman. In a very real sense He “extracted” the woman from the man to make her visible. Now we could see the man and the woman separately with all their distinct characteristics. “This is His image.” And He commanded that they marry and be fruitful and multiply, thus completing the family—the perfect image of the Creator Himself. God is a Divine Family, the Father, Spirit and Son, thus His expressed image needed to be represented by all the same

separate and distinct family members. As such, the human family was created in God's image, the man—a husband and father; the woman—a wife and mother; and the children as the fruit of their marriage. Do you see it: Father, Spirit and Son?

When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it into two opposing beliefs. One position believes men and women are distinct and definitive, marriage is a holy union between them, and children are the blessed fruit of that union. The other position believes any or all of the following: gender is not determined by genetics; it is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman, nor is gender limited to male or female, or even the idea that you must pick only one. Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all. And of course, the unborn child is the fruit of nothing. It is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that clump of tissue permits. By the way, the person incubating that amorphous cluster of cells can be a woman or a man or neither, just to clarify.

One side believes in the family, as God presents it to us, as His visible image. The other has rejected any or all aspects of the family, and by inference has rejected the image of God Himself. In other words, there is no God! Could opposing beliefs be any more contrary? The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy

and thus the restoration of the family to the image of our Creator is the most important work on earth today. The wrath of God is coming against all who oppose this reality.

GOD'S VISIBLE ATTRIBUTES

1. **God's image is clearly recognizable in the earth!**

A. **God is manifest in them...**

(1) God's Wrath on Unrighteousness

(a) Ungodly and unrighteous men have denied something obvious.

1. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**" Romans 1:18-19 NKJV

2. Critical Questions:

- a) What truth is being suppressed?
- b) What is known of God that was manifest in them?
- c) How has God shown it to them?
- d) What is the penalty for denying this reality?
 - 1) If you reject Yahweh's truth long enough, He will release you into your sin and the dire

consequences of such (the natural and eternal penalties of your errors).

- 2) When you follow the lusts of your heart, vile passions, and a debased mind, it leads to death.

(2) Rewind two verses: the Gospel of Christ!

(a) In the Gospel of Christ something ancient was revealed!

1. “For in it [the gospel of Christ, v. 16] **the righteousness of God is revealed** from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”” Romans 1:17 NKJV

2. What was revealed?

- a) Last week we explored the faith aspect of this verse in [From Faith to Faith](#).
- b) This week we peer deeper still.

B. The Creation Gospel

(1) The invisible made visible

(a) No Excuse!

1. “For **since** the **creation** of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even His **eternal power and Godhead**, so that they are **without excuse**,” Romans 1:20 NKJV

2. What invisible qualities should be clearly seen?

- a) Nature testifies to the identity and glory of the only true God. All else is futile. I think we can safely call this the “Creation Gospel.”
 - b) Creation itself, and most importantly that mankind was created in God’s image, testifies to the identity of our Creator, how He operates, and how much He wants us to know Him and know about Him.
 - c) And it is important to consider what is stirred in your mind when you think of creation.
 - d) Here in Romans, Paul indicates that creation holds the keys to God’s invisible attributes becoming clearly recognizable, and that should draw your attention back to the garden in Genesis.
 - e) Once you are there, things become obvious, and there can be no excuse for your ignorance about God’s identity.
 - f) The sin that took place in the garden, however, sent creation into a tailspin. And this whole creation gospel got perverted!
- (b) Since Adam’s fall in the garden, creation has been in a steady decline. But in a prophetic stroke of genius, in chapter 8, Paul tells us what the restoration of creation will look like and what to look for next.

1. “For the earnest expectation of the **creation** eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God**. For the **creation** was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God**. For we know that the whole **creation** groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” Romans 8:19-22 NKJV
2. Corrupted Creation is delivered from bondage with the revealing of the sons of God in what is called the restoration of all things.
 - a) The fall of creation in Genesis 3 is still manifesting in the earth.
 - b) Paul is eluding the corruption of that garden and the decay that has ensued ever since.
 - c) The corruption ultimately manifests in denial of God’s very image.
 - d) When creation is delivered from the bondage of that corruption, we will see a RESTORATION of God’s image in the earth—the Family!
 - e) We will study the details about the restoration in Romans 8.

- f) Today we will focus on God's image and what happens when that image is perverted.
- (c) First: God's Invisible Attributes... *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes..."*
 - 1. "Then God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image,** according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, **"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV
 - 2. The human family reflects the image of God
 - a) God is an us (male, female, child).
 - b) Adam (Man) was created in God's image as "Us".
 - c) God called Adam "them" because he had the DNA of a male and a female already within him.
 - d) All of creation was contained inside of Adam (as it is with God Himself).

- e) God shows us Adam's female DNA even before he separates the "woman-only DNA" from him (women only have female DNA).
- f) God blessed Adam and told him to be fruitful and multiply BEFORE Eve (the woman's DNA) was extracted from him!
- g) This reveals that within Adam was a Man, Woman and Child, the expressed image of the Creator.
- h) Adam is ONE as Yahweh is ONE
- i) If we were in the garden at the time Adam was created observing, we would witness only a Man. The Female and Child **were invisible**.
- j) But, God desired for us to better know the inner workings of His character. He knew ...*"It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* (Genesis 2:18 NKJV) —so he did this... *"His invisible attributes became clearly seen, understood by what He revealed about His Godhead, so there can be no excuse."*

(2) **The invisible becomes visible!** The revealing of the nature of the Godhead (3 persons in one) by revealing the nature of Adam (3 persons in one) would remove all doubt about who was the only true God. There could be no excuse.

(a) The **Woman** was made visible...

1. “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. **Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.**” ; NKJV
2. First Yahweh breathed life into Adam
 - a) Then Yahweh tells us that Adam would not be fully understood if you could not recognize what was inside of him—“It is not good for man to be alone...” (Genesis 2:18)
 - b) In other words—you could not possibly recognize the inner workings of the powerful creative force inside of Adam unless God showed it to you—
 - c) So, Yahweh extracted female DNA from Adam and showed us what that looks like in human form, all the attributes of the female part of Adam.
 - d) FACT: Even though the female DNA was extracted from Adam to form Eve, Adam still possessed Female DNA (still true about every male today)!
 - e) Women have only female DNA. If Adam only kept male DNA, when they were “fruitful” there would

never be a female child because to create a female, Adam must contribute female DNA.

1) Male = Male + Female DNA

2) Female = Female + Female DNA

f) Question: How can the parts of Man remain ONE as God is ONE, even after God separates them for us to see their individual features, while at the same time each part remains recognizable as a distinct piece of the original whole? *"...and He brought her to the man..."*

(b) The Answer is...**Marriage**

1. "And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.** And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:23-25 NKJV
2. Eve was taken and created from Adam's DNA, separated out, or "set-apart" from Adam.
 - a) But, in the most glorious way, through marriage, the two are still able to operate as ONE.

- b) Can you now understand why God, who is ONE, can also be viewed as three separate “characters”?
- c) That is why God created Marriage and the Family, all so we could know Him—understand His image
- (c) **Children** complete the family...

1. “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she **conceived and bore Cain**, and said, “**I have acquired a man from the Lord.**”” Genesis 4:1 NKJV

2. How does God make these invisible attributes “clearly seen”?

- a) He extracts Eve from Adam—presents her to him!
- b) The two reconnect in Marriage—they remain One flesh
- c) Then the male and female intimately recombine to form a child.

d) This is the Image of God!

(3) What was Jesus’ teaching about the importance of His Father’s Image as expressed in gender and marriage?

(a) What deep prophetic message was Jesus revealing when He referred to marriage and family?

1. *Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘**made them male and female** [Genesis 1:27],’ and said, ‘**For this reason** a man shall leave his*

*father and mother and be joined to his wife, and **the two shall become one flesh**'? [Genesis 2:24] So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore **what God has joined together, let not man separate.**""*

Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV

2. For what reason?

- a) Because Adam was made both male and female...
- b) And because he had hidden attributes...
- c) And because those hidden attributes were revealed when the woman was extracted from Adam and she was presented to him!
- d) And because even with the separation, God needed us to understand that they remained One as He is One...He gave us MARRIAGE! *"The two shall become one flesh."*
- e) And Jesus let us know in no uncertain terms that this oneness CAN NEVER BE SEPARATED!
 - 1) *"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**"* Genesis 1:27 NKJV
 - 2) *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and **they shall become one flesh.**"* Genesis 2:24 NKJV

- 3) “Therefore **what God has joined together, let not man separate.**” Matthew 19:6
- f) Three in One (that the world may know “The Image of God.”)
- 1) “Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?** The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but **the Father who dwells in Me** does the works. Believe Me **that I am in the Father and the Father in Me,** or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.” John 14:9-11 NKJV
- 2) “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper, that He [She] may abide with you forever**— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, **because it neither sees Him [Her] nor knows Him [Her];** but you know Him, for **He [She] dwells with you and will be in you.**” John 14:16-17 NKJV

- 3) *““But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, **the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father**, He will testify of Me.” John 15:26 NKJV*
- 4) *““I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; **that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:20-23 NKJV*
- g) Do not overlook this MOST CRITICAL piece! “For this reason...” What reason? Because God’s image expressed in Adam was both male and female, and for us to fully understand that He extracted the female to show us her distinct characteristics. And to remind us that in no way does this extraction diminish the ONENESS of God, He gives us

marriage which “recombines” the male and female as ONE! **And Jesus ADDS clarity—This is of God and it CANNOT be separated!**

- h) To understand the true magnitude of Marriage, and the fruit of marriage, in a world that diminishes Holy Matrimony to a temporary contract and business arrangement, and reduces childbearing to a “personal choice” to carry or eliminate a blob of cells, you must recognize this: **Marriage is the image of God!** Let that settle in for a bit. **“For this reason”**, because God wants to express Himself, so you can know Him and His nature, He gives us marriage and the fruit of marriage—the Family!
- (b) *“Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* Matthew 19:6 NKJV
- 1. The Bond of Marriage is the Image of God and it cannot be broken! Paul’s words in Romans 8!
 - a) *“Who shall **separate us** from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”* Romans 8:35 NKJV
 - b) *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things*

*present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us** from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39 NKJV*

- c) Can you recognize the type of covenant Paul is referring to in Romans 8. When he says nothing can separate us from Christ’s love he is alluding to the type of relationship we have with Y’shua. It’s a marital covenant— *“What God has joined together, let not man separate.”*
- (c) Now let’s go back to the Garden and revisit creation with a whole new perspective!
 - 1. “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**” Genesis 1:27 NKJV
 - 2. There he was, stranding in the garden, the perfect image of God.
 - d) Observing him you’d see only a man, but inside, inseparable from him was his bride.
 - e) The marriage covenant today must be viewed as inseparable as it would be for you to remove Eve from Adam yourself.

- f) Yes God could do it, but He is God. And He did it only so that the invisible would become visible.
- g) And then He gave us marriage for all to know,
“What God has joined together, let not man separate.”

C. Suppression of the Creation Gospel

(1) If unveiling the once invisible qualities—the female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to us...

(a) What would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image? (Back to Romans 1:18-19)

1. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness, because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them** [He brought her to the man (Genesis 2:22), showed Eve to Adam;].”

Romans 1:18-19 NKJV

2. Suppression of the truth is a dangerous thing!
 - a) How did God show them what should be known about Him which they ultimately suppressed?
 - 1) He made woman brought her to Adam (Genesis 2:21-22)

- 2) He made Marriage: a man shall be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23-25)
- 3) He made children: Adam knew Eve and she conceived and said "I have acquired a man from the Lord" (Genesis 4:1)

(2) Ways to suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

(a) Forbid Marriage

1. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, **giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry,** and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth." I Timothy 4:1-3 NKJV
2. A time will come when marriage is no longer viewed as beneficial or necessary.
 - a) Anyone notice any of that happening now?
- (b) Your role as a minister of truth is to instruct against such heresies!

1. **“If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister** of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed. But **reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.**” I Timothy 4:6-7 NKJV

(c) Fruit: Appreciation Depreciation

1. In pain you shall bring forth children— Genesis 3:16
 - a) The blessing of fruit is no longer easy!
2. Don’t even consider sacrificing your fruit— Leviticus 18:21
 - a) Child Sacrifice—an utter abomination!
3. Sacrificing your children on the altar of a false God— Jeremiah 32:32-35
 - a) Abortion—the Modern Altar of Molech
 - b) 55- 60 million abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision made the procedure legal. (Now overturned in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization as of June 24, 2022)
 - c) In the USA, where nearly half of pregnancies are unintended and four in 10 of these are terminated

by abortion, there are over 3,000 abortions per day. Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the USA (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.

- d) According to WHO, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day.
- e) Abortion Statistics counter NO EXCUSES!
- (d) What is the root of these atrocities? Know God, but deny Him anyway!
 - 1. “because, **although they knew God**, they **did not glorify Him as God**, nor were thankful, but **became futile in their thoughts**, and their **foolish hearts were darkened.**” Romans 1:21 NKJV
 - 2. Futile Thoughts and Darkened Hearts
 - a) The Godhead’s invisible attributes (a triune God) were made clearly visible by what He made (the human family), so no one has an excuse to not know Him. (v. 1:20)
 - b) Decide to not give Him glory and instead give way to useless and worthless thinking.
 - c) Hearts become black with denial and pride!
- (e) Change God into AN IMAGE of your own making.

1. “Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man**—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.” Romans 1:22-23 NKJV
2. Fools!
 - a) An attempt to change the glory of the ONE TRUE GOD into ANOTHER IMAGE!
 - b) To idolize anything but the real God.
- (f) To dishonor the natural use of the body
 1. “**Therefore** God also gave them up **to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies** among themselves, who **exchanged the truth** of God **for the lie**, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen.” Romans 1:24-25 NKJV
 2. Exchange the Truth for a Lie!
 - a) Once you are willing to ignore the truth about the real God long enough, God will give you over to your own desires.
 - b) It is not clear how long God will tolerate this rebellion, so it’s safer to just not rebel at all!

- c) There can be no worse fate than for Yahweh to give you over to your own sin—fueled by your desire to worship yourself, rather than your Creator.
- d) They've become futile in their thoughts and their hearts have become darkened.
- e) For those who still have some sense of conviction, read all of Psalm 19. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." "Keep back your servant from presumptuous sin; let them not have dominion over me!" (vv. 1, 13)*
- f) What does it mean for Yahweh to give you over to uncleanness, in the lusts of your heart, to dishonor your body?

THE GATEWAY SIN

2. The Root Manifestation

A. Sexual Immorality

(1) Gender confusion

(a) For this reason...

1. **"For this reason** God gave them up to **vile passions**.

For even their **women exchanged the natural** use for what is **against nature**. Likewise also the **men**,

leaving the natural use of the woman, **burned in their lust for one another, men with men** committing what is **shameful**, and **receiving** in themselves the **penalty** of their error which was due.” Romans 1:26-27 NKJV

2. For what reason?

- a) They knew the image of the true God but did not give Him glory!
- b) They changed the image of God in their futile minds!
- c) They worshiped creation rather than the Creator!

3. For such, God surrendered these rebels over to their Vile Passions!

- a) We will observe the sinful decline of mankind in detail here, but if there is one sin that is most indicative of the violation of the Creation Gospel, it is found in verses 26–27.
- b) Both women and men exchange the NATURAL USE of the opposite gender (creation’s design) for what is AGAINST NATURE, the desire for the same gender (creation’s decline).

- c) There is no respect for God's creative strategy more basic than the recognition of the natural functions and relationship of a male and a female.
- d) Together, they are created in Yahweh's image: be one, be fruitful and fill the earth, be rulers over creation itself (Genesis 1:27-28).
- e) **Violation of this fundamental truth (man, woman, marriage, and the murder of unborn babies) is a denial of the very existence of Yahweh.**
- f) If you insist on denying the truth of who God is and His ways, even though Creation itself testifies to it...it will not turn out well for you when your heart becomes darkened.
- g) You will wind up worshipping creation itself; your normal heterosexual desires will be twisted into homosexual desires (and all sorts of other perverse behaviors associated with gender confusion); and the doorway is open to all other vile behaviors.

B. The greatest crises in the world today... The destruction of the visible Image of God!

- (1) When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it into two opposing beliefs.
 - (a) One position believes any or all of the following:

- 1) Gender is not determined by genetics.
- 2) Gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman.
- 3) Gender is not limited to male or female, or even the idea that you must pick only one.
- 4) Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all.
- 5) The unborn child is the fruit of nothing. It is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that clump of tissue permits.
- 6) The person incubating that amorphous cluster of cells can be a woman or a man or neither.
- 7) Rejects any or all aspects of the family, and by inference has rejected the image of God Himself. In other words, there is no God!
- 8) The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy.

(b) The other position believes:

- 1) Men and women are distinct and definitive.
- 2) Marriage is a holy union between them.
- 3) Children are the blessed fruit of that union.
- 4) The family, as God presents it to us, is His image.

- 5) The restoration of the family to the image of our Creator is the most important work on earth today.
 - 6) The wrath of God is coming against all who oppose this reality.
- (2) Could opposing beliefs be any more contrary to one another?
- (a) Let's Connect the Dots!
1. Let Us make man in Our image...
 2. Male and female He created them...
 3. From man He made woman...
 4. He brought her to the man...(this once invisible quality can now be seen).
 5. The two shall become one flesh...
 6. Be fruitful and multiply...(offspring become visible)
 7. His invisible attributes are now clearly seen...
 8. These qualities represent His eternal power and Godhead...(man, woman, child)
 9. So there can be no excuse! (It is clearly visible!)
 10. Deny this image and you deny the One true God!
 11. Deny this image and all other vile behaviors will follow!

A CASCADE OF SINS

3. Forgetting God

A. From the gateway sin to every type of vile behavior!

(1) God showed it; they knew it!

(a) “what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. {21}...although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God...” Rom. 1:19, 21

1. “And even as they **did not like to retain God in their knowledge**, God **gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;**” Romans 1:28 NKJV

2. When you won’t keep the truth of God at the forefront of your mind...

a) The Debased Mind: Once you are given over to a debased mind, every type of sin can have a grip on you.

b) Think about it—we could certainly look at so many different lies, but at the origin of them resulted in eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

c) Now we live in a world with twisted knowledge—the root of all the twisted thinking goes all the way

back to the garden when God created mankind in His image.

3. Review

- a) Today, the greatest assault of all is the dismantling of man being created in God's image—gender is fluid—marriage is irrelevant—the life of a child is optional!
- b) It's easy recognize it now, isn't it?
 - 1) *“His **invisible attributes** are clearly seen, **being understood by the things that are made**, even His eternal power and **Godhead**.”*
- c) Invisible attributes? Yes...that Adam was a them (male and female!) and was told to be fruitful and multiply. And the extraction of Eve was to show those invisible attributes—the female and childbearing (the family). The destruction of that image is the denial of the image of God—the most egregious denial of all.
- d) His invisible attributes as a Divine Family (a Father, Spirit and Son) were made manifest in the human family (Father, Mother, and Child).
- e) And the denial of the human family is a denial of the Creator Himself.

(2) That unrighteousness leads to this cascade...

(a) Cascade

1. {a mass of something that falls or hangs in **copious or luxuriant quantities**}
2. {a large number or amount of something occurring or arriving **in rapid succession**}

(b) The first on the list of corrupt behaviors is gender confusion!

1. "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; **male and female He created them.**" Genesis 1:27
2. "**For this reason** God gave them up to **vile passions. ...women exchanged the natural** use for what is **against nature. ... men, leaving the natural** use of the woman, **burned in their lust for one another, men with men ...**" Romans 1:26-27 NKJV

(c) After **sexual immorality**, the gateway sin, the door is wide open!

1. "being filled with all unrighteousness, **sexual immorality**, *wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil*

things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;"

Romans 1:29-31 NKJV

2. Suppress the truth about what has been revealed about God's invisible attributes!
 - a) Persist long enough and your heart will be darkened.
 - b) God will give you over to the lusts of your heart and vile passions.
 - c) It will lead to every type of wicked behavior.

B. And if that is not bad enough...

- (1) Don't just practice it, promote it!
 - (a) The righteous judgment of God is coming!
 1. "who, **knowing the righteous judgment of God**, that those who **practice such things are deserving of death**, not only do the same **but also approve of those who practice them.**" Romans 1:32 NKJV
 2. Both those practicing and those approving of such vile behaviors will face God's wrath
 - a) "*For **the wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who **suppress the truth** in unrighteousness,*" Romans 1:18 NKJV

- b) It's not only those who participate in such sin that Yahweh sees as rebellious and deserving of eternal death, but those who approve of and promote such things (even if they are not practicing such themselves).
- 3. If we examine the modern day, is this not precisely what we are experiencing?
 - a) Those who practice deviant sexual behavior (sexual immorality) are often championed by those who want to "protect their rights," and more so, label all those who oppose this twist of nature as haters and evil bigots.
 - b) *"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil."*
Isaiah 5:20 (Read Isaiah 5:18-21).

PURITY AND AN ORDERLY LIFE

4. Command: abstain from sexual immorality

A. See: [Purity and an Orderly Life](#)

(1) Sexual Purity

(a) God's will is your sanctification!

1. "For **this is the will of God**, your **sanctification**: that you should **abstain from sexual immorality**; that **each of you should know how to possess his own vessel** in

sanctification and honor, **not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;**" I Thessalonians 4:3-5 NKJV

2. This is God's business model.

- a) Sanctification: the action of making or declaring something holy; the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.
- b) Holy: set-apart, separated, different from the world!

(2) This is what your sanctification process looks like.

(a) Separate from the things in the world...

- 1. **"Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever." I John 2:15-17 NKJV

2. Don't love...

- a) the lust of the flesh
- b) the lust of the eyes
- c) the pride of life

(b) Separate from the wisdom of the world...

1. "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.** For it is written, "**He catches the wise in their own craftiness**"; and again, "**The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.**" I Corinthians 3:18-20 NKJV
2. Don't be deceived...
 - a) the wisdom of the world is foolishness
 - b) the thoughts of the wise are futile
- (3) Abstain from sexual immorality!
 - (a) Here Paul echoes James' ruling from the Jerusalem Council, the one Paul was charged with bringing to the Gentiles.
 1. "Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to **abstain** from things polluted by idols, **from sexual immorality**, from things strangled, and from blood." Acts 15:19-20 NKJV
 2. "Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, **to send chosen men** of their own company to Antioch with **Paul** and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas,

leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren **who are of the Gentiles** in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.” Acts 15:22-23 NKJV

3. As we know, after that ruling in Jerusalem, he did not only stop in *Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia* on on his second missionary journey (Acts 15:36 - 18:22).
 - a) He continued through Galatia, Asia and into Macedonia where he visited Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9).
 - b) And then He returned through Greece, and Ephesus (in Asia) before arriving back to Caesarea.
- (b) How do you avoid sexually immorality?
 1. Be in control of your own body, unlike the Gentiles who do not know God. I love how Paul says it, ***“Each of you should know how to possess his own vessel.***
 2. Consider your Body as a vessel of sanctification and honor.

B. Paul wrote letters to other cities he visited on his second missionary journey...

- (1) To Corinth, Philippi and Ephesus...

- (a) **To Corinth:** he wrote, “Your body (your vessel) is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.”
1. ***“Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*** I Corinthians 6:18-20 NKJV
 2. And we know Paul’s sentiments on sexual immorality: ***“It is actually reported that there is among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife!”*** I Corinthians 5:1 NKJV (See I Corinthians 5:1-12)
 - a) Flee sexual immorality!
- (b) **To Philippi:** he wrote, “You can do it! You can master yourself, no matter how difficult it seems.”
1. ***“I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*** Philippians 4:12-13 NKJV

a) As long as you lean on Christ!

(c) **To Ephesus:** he wrote, “Stop acting like a Gentile. Stop giving yourself over to lewdness, uncleanness and deceitful lusts. Start acting like the new person you were created to be in the Lord!”

1. *“This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that **you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk**, in the **futility** of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, **have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness**. But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you **put off, concerning your former conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the **deceitful lusts**, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” Ephesians 4:17-24 NKJV*

a) Don't go back to your old ways!

(2) Don't listen to the frauds!

(a) What does it mean...

1. “that no one should **take advantage** of and **defraud** his brother in this matter, because **the Lord is the avenger of all such**, as we also **forewarned** you and **testified.**” I Thessalonians 4:6 NKJV
2. ...to take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter of sexual immorality?
 - a) **Take advantage:** to lure someone into the sin because of their weakness, ignorance or past tendencies.
 - b) **Defraud:** to convince them that it's okay, that there is no sin in it and thus no consequences.
Remember: “...*deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*” Romans 1:32 NKJV

(b) Practice Holiness!

1. “For **God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.**” I Thessalonians 4:7 NKJV
2. Sexual immorality is...
 - a) Unclean: morally wrong, sinful, bad, wicked, evil, corrupt, impure, sullied, unwholesome, sordid, disgusting, debased, degenerate, depraved, licentious, lewd, unchaste, lustful!

b) And we've learned from Romans, when people deny the truth about who God is, that sexual immorality is the principle sin, the gateway sin that ensues, the first sin in a cascade of many depraved choices...

c) And you are called to be HOLY

- 1) Set-apart for God in all things; separated, different from the world!
- 2) Paul makes a definitive statement about sexually immorality! *"For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness."*

(c) It that simple!

1. "Therefore **he who rejects this does not reject man, but God**, who has also given us His Holy Spirit." I Thessalonians 4:8 NKJV

a) If you don't believe sexual immorality is that bad, you are not refusing my words but God's words!

(d) To be continued...

1. "For the earnest expectation of the **creation** eagerly waits for **the revealing of the sons of God**. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because **the creation itself also will be delivered from the**

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” Romans 8:19-21 NKJV

2. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And **he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers,** Lest I come and strike the earth with **a curse.”” Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV**
 - a) The Restoration of the Creation Gospel is coming!
 - b) Details coming when we get to Romans 8!

Summary: GOD’S VISIBLE ATTRIBUTES

1. God’s image is clearly recognizable in the earth!

A. God is manifest in them...

(1) God’s Wrath on Unrighteousness

- (a) Ungodly and unrighteous men have denied something obvious.

1. Critical Questions:

- a) What truth is being suppressed?
- b) What is known of God that was manifest in them?
- c) How has God shown it to them?
- d) What is the penalty for denying this reality?

- 1) If you reject Yahweh's truth long enough, He will release you into your sin and the dire consequences of such (the natural and eternal penalties of your errors).
 - 2) When you follow the lusts of your heart, vile passions, and a debased mind, it leads to death.
- (2) Rewind two verses: the Gospel of Christ!
- (a) In the Gospel of Christ something ancient was revealed!
 1. What was revealed?
 - a) Last week we explored the faith aspect of this verse in [From Faith to Faith](#).
 - b) This week we peer deeper still.

B. The Creation Gospel

- (1) The invisible made visible
 - (a) No Excuse!
 1. What invisible qualities should be clearly seen?
 - a) Nature testifies to the identity and glory of the only true God. All else is futile. I think we can safely call this the "Creation Gospel."
 - b) Creation itself, and most importantly that mankind was created in God's image, testifies to the identity of our Creator, how He operates, and how much He wants us to know Him and know about Him.

- c) And it is important to consider what is stirred in your mind when you think of creation.
 - d) Here in Romans, Paul indicates that creation holds the keys to God's invisible attributes becoming clearly recognizable, and that should draw your attention back to the garden in Genesis.
 - e) Once you are there, things become obvious, and there can be no excuse for your ignorance about God's identity.
 - f) The sin that took place in the garden, however, sent creation into a tailspin. And this whole creation gospel got perverted!
- (b) Since Adam's fall in the garden, creation has been in a steady decline. But in a prophetic stroke of genius, in chapter 8, Paul tells us what the restoration of creation will look like and what to look for next.
1. Corrupted Creation is delivered from bondage with the revealing of the sons of God in what is called the restoration of all things.
 - a) The fall of creation in Genesis 3 is still manifesting in the earth.
 - b) Paul is eluding the corruption of that garden and the decay that has ensued ever since.

- c) The corruption ultimately manifests in denial of God's very image.
 - d) When creation is delivered from the bondage of that corruption, we will see a RESTORATION of God's image in the earth—the Family!
 - e) We will study the details about the restoration in Romans 8.
 - f) Today we will focus on God's image and what happens when that image is perverted.
- (c) First: God's Invisible Attributes... *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes..."*
1. The human family reflects the image of God
 - a) God is an us (male, female, child).
 - b) Adam (Man) was created in God's image as "Us".
 - c) God called Adam "them" because he had the DNA of a male and a female already within him.
 - d) All of creation was contained inside of Adam (as it is with God Himself).
 - e) God shows us Adam's female DNA even before he separates the "woman-only DNA" from him (women only have female DNA).

- f) God blessed Adam and told him to be fruitful and multiply BEFORE Eve (the woman's DNA) was extracted from him!
- g) This reveals that within Adam was a Man, Woman and Child, the expressed image of the Creator.
- h) Adam is ONE as Yahweh is ONE
- i) If we were in the garden at the time Adam was created observing, we would witness only a Man. The Female and Child **were invisible**.
- j) But, God desired for us to better know the inner workings of His character. He knew ...*"It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."* (Genesis 2:18 NKJV) —so he did this... *"His invisible attributes became clearly seen, understood by what He revealed about His Godhead, so there can be no excuse."*

(2) **The invisible becomes visible!** The revealing of the nature of the Godhead (3 persons in one) by revealing the nature of Adam (3 persons in one) would remove all doubt about who was the only true God. There could be no excuse.

(a) The **Woman** was made visible...

1. First Yahweh breathed life into Adam

- a) Then Yahweh tells us that Adam would not be fully understood if you could not recognize what was inside of him—"It is not good for man to be alone..." (Genesis 2:18)
- b) In other words—you could not possibly recognize the inner workings of the powerful creative force inside of Adam unless God showed it to you—
- c) So, Yahweh extracted female DNA from Adam and showed us what that looks like in human form, all the attributes of the female part of Adam.
- d) FACT: Even though the female DNA was extracted from Adam to form Eve, Adam still possessed Female DNA (still true about every male today)!
- e) Women have only female DNA. If Adam only kept male DNA, when they were "fruitful" there would never be a female child because to create a female, Adam must contribute female DNA.
 - 1) Male = Male + Female DNA
 - 2) Female = Female + Female DNA
- f) Question: How can the parts of Man remain ONE as God is ONE, even after God separates them for us to see their individual features, while at the same time each part remains recognizable as a

distinct piece of the original whole? *“...and He brought her to the man...”*

(b) The Answer is...**Marriage**

1. Eve was taken and created from Adam’s DNA, separated out, or “set-apart” from Adam.
 - a) But, in the most glorious way, through marriage, the two are still able to operate as ONE.
 - b) Can you now understand why God, who is ONE, can also be viewed as three separate “characters”?
 - c) That is why God created Marriage and the Family, all so we could know Him—understand His image

(c) **Children** complete the family...

1. How does God make these invisible attributes “clearly seen”?
 - a) He extracts Eve from Adam—presents her to him!
 - b) The two reconnect in Marriage—they remain One flesh
 - c) Then the male and female intimately recombine to form a child.

d) This is the Image of God!

- (3) What was Jesus’ teaching about the importance of His Father’s Image as expressed in gender and marriage?

(a) What deep prophetic message was Jesus revealing when He referred to marriage and family?

1. For what reason?

- a) Because Adam was made both male and female...
- b) And because he had hidden attributes...
- c) And because those hidden attributes were revealed when the woman was extracted from Adam and she was presented to him!
- d) And because even with the separation, God needed us to understand that they remained One as He is One...He gave us MARRIAGE! *"The two shall become one flesh."*
- e) And Jesus let us know in no uncertain terms that this oneness CAN NEVER BE SEPARATED!
- f) Three in One (that the world may know "The Image of God.")
- g) Do not overlook this MOST CRITICAL piece! "For this reason..." What reason? Because God's image expressed in Adam was both male and female, and for us to fully understand that He extracted the female to show us her distinct characteristics. And to remind us that in no way does this extraction diminish the ONENESS of God, He gives us

marriage which “recombines” the male and female as ONE! **And Jesus ADDS clarity—This is of God and it CANNOT be separated!**

- h) To understand the true magnitude of Marriage, and the fruit of marriage, in a world that diminishes Holy Matrimony to a temporary contract and business arrangement, and reduces childbearing to a “personal choice” to carry or eliminate a blob of cells, you must recognize this: **Marriage is the image of God!** Let that settle in for a bit. **“For this reason”**, because God wants to express Himself, so you can know Him and His nature, He gives us marriage and the fruit of marriage—the Family!
- (b) *“Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.”* Matthew 19:6 NKJV
- 1. The Bond of Marriage is the Image of God and it cannot be broken! Paul’s words in Romans 8!
 - a) Can you recognize the type of covenant Paul is referring to in Romans 8. When he says nothing can separate us from Christ’s love he is alluding to the type of relationship we have with Y’shua. It’s a marital covenant— *“What God has joined together, let not man separate.”*

(c) Now let's go back to the Garden and revisit creation with a whole new perspective!

1. There he was, standing in the garden, the perfect image of God.
 - b) Observing him you'd see only a man, but inside, inseparable from him was his bride.
 - c) The marriage covenant today must be viewed as inseparable as it would be for you to remove Eve from Adam yourself.
 - d) Yes God could do it, but He is God. And He did it only so that the invisible would become visible.
 - e) And then He gave us marriage for all to know,
"What God has joined together, let not man separate."

C. Suppression of the Creation Gospel

- (1) If unveiling the once invisible qualities—the female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to us...
 - (a) What would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image? (Back to Romans 1:18-19)
 1. Suppression of the truth is a dangerous thing!
 - a) How did God show them what should be known about Him which they ultimately suppressed?

- 1) He made woman brought her to Adam (Genesis 2:21-22)
- 2) He made Marriage: a man shall be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. (Genesis 2:23-25)
- 3) He made children: Adam knew Eve and she conceived and said “I have acquired a man from the Lord” (Genesis 4:1)

(2) Ways to suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

(a) Forbid Marriage

1. A time will come when marriage is no longer viewed as beneficial or necessary.

a) Anyone notice any of that happening now?

(b) Your role as a minister of truth is the instruct against such heresies!

(c) Fruit: Appreciation Depreciation

1. In pain you shall bring forth children.
 - a) The blessing of fruit is no longer easy!
2. Don't even consider sacrificing your fruit.
 - a) Child Sacrifice—an utter abomination!
3. Sacrificing your children on the altar of a false God.
 - a) Abortion—the Modern Altar of Molech

- b) 55- 60 million abortions have been performed in the United States since 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision made the procedure legal. (Now overturned in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization as of June 24, 2022)
 - c) In the USA, where nearly half of pregnancies are unintended and four in 10 of these are terminated by abortion, there are over 3,000 abortions per day. Twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the USA (excluding miscarriages) end in abortion.
 - d) According to WHO, every year in the world there are an estimated 40-50 million abortions. This corresponds to approximately 125,000 abortions per day.
 - e) Abortion Statistics counter NO EXCUSES!
- (d) What is the root of these atrocities? Know God, but deny Him anyway!
1. Futile Thoughts and Darkened Hearts
 - a) The Godhead's invisible attributes (a triune God) were made clearly visible by what He made (the human family), so no one has an excuse to not know Him. (v. 1:20)

- b) Decide to not give Him glory and instead give way to useless and worthless thinking.
- c) Hearts become black with denial and pride!
- (e) Change God into AN IMAGE of your own making.

1. Fools!

- a) An attempt to change the glory of the ONE TRUE GOD into ANOTHER IMAGE!
- b) To idolize anything but the real God.

(f) To dishonor the natural use of the body

1. Exchange the Truth for a Lie!

- a) Once you are willing to ignore the truth about the real God long enough, God will give you over to your own desires.
- b) It is not clear how long God will tolerate this rebellion, so it's safer to just not rebel at all!
- c) There can be no worse fate than for Yahweh to give you over to your own sin—fueled by your desire to worship yourself, rather than your Creator.
- d) They've become futile in their thoughts and their hearts have become darkened.
- e) For those who still have some sense of conviction, read all of Psalm 19. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His*

handiwork.” “Keep back your servant from presumptuous sin; let them not have dominion over me!” (vv. 1, 13)

- f) What does it mean for Yahweh to give you over to uncleanness, in the lusts of your heart, to dishonor your body?

Summary: THE GATEWAY SIN

2. The Root Manifestation

A. Sexual Immorality

(1) Gender confusion

(a) For this reason...

1. For what reason?

- a) They knew the image of the true God but did not give Him glory!
- b) They changed the image of God in their futile minds!
- c) They worshiped creation rather than the Creator!

2. For such, God surrendered these rebels over to their Vile Passions!

- a) We will observe the sinful decline of mankind in detail here, but if there is one sin that is most

indicative of the violation of the Creation Gospel, it is found in verses 26–27.

- b) Both women and men exchange the NATURAL USE of the opposite gender (creation's design) for what is AGAINST NATURE, the desire for the same gender (creation's decline).
- c) There is no respect for God's creative strategy more basic than the recognition of the natural functions and relationship of a male and a female.
- d) Together, they are created in Yahweh's image and commanded to be fruitful, fill the earth, and be rulers over creation itself (Genesis 1:27-28).
- e) **Violation of this fundamental truth (man, woman, marriage, and the murder of unborn babies) is a denial of the very existence of Yahweh.**
- f) If you insist on denying the truth of who God is and His ways, even though Creation itself testifies to it...it will not turn out well for you when your heart becomes darkened.
- g) You will wind up worshipping creation itself; your normal heterosexual desires will be twisted into homosexual desires (and all sorts of other perverse

behaviors associated with gender confusion); and the doorway is open to all other vile behaviors.

B. The greatest crises in the world today... The destruction of the visible Image of God!

- (1) When you contemplate the existential crisis of our day, you can simplify it into two opposing beliefs.
 - (a) One position believes any or all of the following:
 - 1) Gender is not determined by genetics.
 - 2) Gender is a social construct and there has never been a distinction between a man and a woman.
 - 3) Gender is not limited to male or female, or even the idea that you must pick only one.
 - 4) Marriage is unnecessary, or if desired, may take place between any genders or no genders at all.
 - 5) The unborn child is the fruit of nothing. It is not even human or alive, and has no rights to live, other than what the person carrying that clump of tissue permits.
 - 6) The person incubating that amorphous cluster of cells can be a woman or a man or neither.
 - 7) Rejects any or all aspects of the family, and by inference has rejected the image of God Himself. In other words, there is no God!

8) The destruction of the family is the enemy's chief strategy.

(b) The other position believes:

- 1) Men and women are distinct and definitive.
- 2) Marriage is a holy union between them.
- 3) Children are the blessed fruit of that union.
- 4) The family, as God presents it to us, is His image.
- 5) The restoration of the family to the image of our Creator is the most important work on earth today.
- 6) The wrath of God is coming against all who oppose this reality.

(2) Could opposing beliefs be any more contrary to one another?

(a) Let's Connect the Dots!

1. Let Us make man in Our image...
2. Male and female He created them...
3. From man He made woman...
4. He brought her to the man...(this once invisible quality can now be seen).
5. The two shall become one flesh...
6. Be fruitful and multiply...(offspring become visible)
7. His invisible attributes are now clearly seen...

8. These qualities represent His eternal power and Godhead...(man, woman, child)
9. So there can be no excuse! (It is clearly visible!)
10. Deny this image and you deny the One true God!
11. Deny this image and all other vile behaviors will follow!

Summary: A CASCADE OF SINS

3. Forgetting God

A. From the gateway sin to every type of vile behavior!

- (1) God showed it; they knew it!
 - (a) “what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. {21}...although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God...” Rom. 1:19, 21
1. When you won’t keep the truth of God at the forefront of your mind...
 - a) The Debased Mind: Once you are given over to a debased mind, every type of sin can have a grip on you.
 - b) Think about it—we could certainly look at so many different lies, but at the origin of them resulted in eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- c) Now we live in a world with twisted knowledge—the root of all the twisted thinking goes all the way back to the garden when God created mankind in His image.

2. Review

- a) Today, the greatest assault of all is the dismantling of man being created in God's image—gender is fluid—marriage is irrelevant—the life of a child is optional!
- b) It's easy recognize it now, isn't it?
- c) Invisible attributes? Yes...that Adam was a them (male and female!) and was told to be fruitful and multiply. And the extraction of Eve was to show those invisible attributes—the female and childbearing (the family). The destruction of that image is the denial of the image of God—the most egregious denial of all.
- d) His invisible attributes as a Divine Family (a Father, Spirit and Son) were made manifest in the human family (Father, Mother, and Child).
- e) And the denial of the human family is a denial of the Creator Himself.

(2) That unrighteousness leads to this cascade...

(a) Cascade

1. {a mass of something that falls or hangs in **copious or luxuriant quantities**}
2. {a large number or amount of something occurring or arriving **in rapid succession**}

(b) The first on the list of corrupt behaviors is gender confusion!

(c) After **sexual immorality**, the gateway sin, the door is wide open!

1. Suppress the truth about what has been revealed about God's invisible attributes!
 - a) Persist long enough and your heart will be darkened.
 - b) God will give you over to the lusts of your heart and vile passions.
 - c) It will leads to every type of wicked behavior.

B. And if that is not bad enough...

(1) Don't just practice it, promote it!

(a) The righteous judgment of God is coming!

1. Both those practicing and those approving of such vile behaviors will face God's wrath
 - a) It's not only those who participate in such sin that Yahweh sees as rebellious and deserving of eternal

death, but those who approve of and promote such things (even if they are not practicing such themselves).

2. If we examine the modern day, is this not precisely what we are experiencing?
 - a) Those who practice deviant sexual behavior (sexual immorality) are often championed by those who want to “protect their rights,” and more so, label all those who oppose this twist of nature as haters and evil bigots.
 - b) *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil.”*
Isaiah 5:20 (Read Isaiah 5:18-21).

Summary: PURITY AND AN ORDERLY LIFE

4. Command: abstain from sexual immorality

A. See: [Purity and an Orderly Life](#)

(1) Sexual Purity

(a) God’s will is your sanctification!

1. This is God’s business model.

- a) Sanctification: the action of making or declaring something holy; the action or process of being freed from sin or purified.

b) Holy: set-apart, separated, different from the world!

(2) This is what your sanctification process looks like.

(a) Separate from the things in the world...

1. Don't love...

a) the lust of the flesh

b) the lust of the eyes

c) the pride of life

(b) Separate from the wisdom of the world...

1. Don't be deceived...

a) the wisdom of the world is foolishness

b) the thoughts of the wise are futile

(3) Abstain from sexual immorality!

(a) Here Paul echoes James' ruling from the Jerusalem Council, the one Paul was charged with bringing to the Gentiles.

1. As we know, after that ruling in Jerusalem, he did not only stop in *Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia* on on his second missionary journey (Acts 15:36 - 18:22).

a) He continued through Galatia, Asia and into Macedonia where he visited Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9).

b) And then He returned through Greece, and
Ephesus (in Asia) before arriving back to Caesarea.

(b) How do you avoid sexually immorality?

1. Be in control of your own body, unlike the Gentiles who do not know God. I love how Paul says it, ***“Each of you should know how to possess his own vessel.”***
2. Consider your Body as a vessel of sanctification and honor.

B. Paul wrote letters to other cities he visited on his second missionary journey...

(1) To Corinth, Philippi and Ephesus...

- (a) **To Corinth:** he wrote, “Your body (your vessel) is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.” Flee sexual immorality!
- (b) **To Philippi:** he wrote, “You can do it! You can master yourself, no matter how difficult it seems.” As long as you lean on Christ!
- (c) **To Ephesus:** he wrote, “Stop acting like a Gentile. Stop giving yourself over to lewdness, uncleanness and deceitful lusts. Start acting like the new person you were created to be in the Lord!” Don’t go back to your old ways!

(2) Don’t listen to the frauds!

- (a) What does it mean...

1. ...to take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter of sexual immorality?

- a) **Take advantage:** to lure someone into the sin because of their weakness, ignorance or past tendencies.
- b) **Defraud:** to convince them that it's okay, that there is no sin in it and thus no consequences.

Remember: *"...deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them."* Romans 1:32 NKJV

(b) Practice Holiness!

1. Sexual immorality is...

- a) Unclean: morally wrong, sinful, bad, wicked, evil, corrupt, impure, sullied, unwholesome, sordid, disgusting, debased, degenerate, depraved, licentious, lewd, unchaste, lustful!
- b) And we've learned from Romans, when people deny the truth about who God is, that sexual immorality is the principle sin, the gateway sin that ensues, the first sin in a cascade of many depraved choices...
- c) And you are called to be HOLY

- 1) Set-apart for God in all things; separated, different from the world!
 - 2) Paul makes a definitive statement about sexually immorality! *“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”*
- (c) It that simple!
1. If you don’t believe sexual immorality is that bad, you are not refusing my words but God’s words!
- (d) To be continued... Romans 8:19-21 & Malachi 4:5-6
1. The Restoration of the Creation Gospel is coming!
 2. Details coming when we get to Romans 8!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Ungodly and unrighteous men have denied something obvious in Romans 1:18-19.

- A. What truth is being suppressed?
- B. What is known of God that was manifest in them?
- C. How has God shown it to them?
- D. What is the penalty for denying this reality?
- E. What is the cause and ultimate outcome of man’s denial?

(See Romans 1:28)

2. The Creation Gospel (Romans 1:20)

- A. What invisible qualities should be clearly seen? (Use Genesis 1:26-28; 2:21-25; and 4:1 to find the answer and relate your answer to Romans 1:19 as well.)

3. God created man in His Image:

- A. What was it about Adam (man) that allowed God to extract Eve (woman) from him?
- B. What was the great purpose behind creation of the human family?

4. Eve was inside of Adam and God took her out:

- A. Why did He do that?
- B. How did God ensure that even though they were separated they would still be one?

5. Describe the modern-day perversion of Genesis 1:26-28 and of Marriage?

- A. Use Romans 1:18-32 to justify your answer.
- B. What does this perversion ultimately say about those who support it?

6. What was Jesus' teaching about the importance of His Father's Image as expressed in gender and marriage in Matthew 19:4-6?

- A. What deep prophetic message was Jesus revealing when He referred to marriage and family?

- B. Why is Matthew 19:6, a phrase not borrowed from Genesis 2:24, the most critical piece?
 - C. How might Matthew 19:6 relate to Paul's guarantee that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ in Romans 8:31-39?
- 7. Relate Y'shua's words to the Divine family, the human family, and Marriage.**
- A. See John 14:9-17; 15:26; 17:20-23
- 8. If unveiling the once invisible qualities—the female, and child—is the way God reveals His image to us...**
- A. What would be the best strategy to DESTROY that image? (See I Timothy 4:1-3)
 - B. What should you do about it? (See I Timothy 4:6-7)
- 9. What is the root of that atrocity? (See Romans 1:21)**
- A. How does man change God into AN IMAGE of his own making? (See Romans 1:22-23)
 - B. What is the root or gateway sin? (See Romans 1:24-27).
- 10. The root or gateway sin leads to a cascade of other sins...**
- A. Cascade: a large number or amount of something occurring or arriving in rapid succession.
 - B. Describe each sin in that cascade of sins. (See: Romans 1:29-31)

- C. Describe what happens to both those who practice and promote such sin. (See Romans 1:32)

11. Command: abstain from sexual immorality

- A. Study the following passages and write an essay confronting sexual immorality. (I Thessalonians 4:3-8; I John 2:15-17; I Corinthians 3:18-20; 5:1; 6:18-20; Acts 15:19-23; Philippians 4:12-13; Ephesians 4:17-24)