

What is the criteria that God uses to distinguish man's behavior?

Ungodliness and Unrighteousness

Ungodliness is direct *disregard of God*, which to the Jew would connect itself with the first table of the Law, the first four commandments; while unrighteousness has reference to *wickedness of conduct*, in itself and toward other men.

Sin against the being of God. Simply put, ungodliness is to not be like God.

Unrighteousness is sin against the will of God. Man is not only a moral sinner but a religious sinner. The unrighteous lives as if there were no will of God revealed. **Unrighteousness** has to do with our relationship with our morality. **Ungodliness** has to do with religion - our relation with a sovereign God.

Romans Verse-by-Verse Newell.

The 3 categories of man described in Chapter 1 thru Chapter 2

1. **Common Sinner** : Described as ignorant barbarians or ignorant heathen See Chapter 1:18-32
2. Those who disapproved of the “openly bad” of humanity, **considering themselves “better”—because of race, civilization, environment, education, or culture** 2:1-16
3. Those who disapprove of others evil, **thinking themselves “better,” because of their religion,**—the possession of the Divine oracles: these, of course, were, in Paul’s day, the Jews (2:17-29).

24 Wherefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, so that their bodies were dishonored among themselves:

The word *WHEREFORE* looks back to the reasons God acts.

- 1. Men are ungodly and unrighteous.**
- 2. Because that, though knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful—**
- 3. They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.**

24 Wherefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, so that their bodies were

dishonored among themselves:

Why doesn't man confess the truth as to the *origin* of this shameful condition — that is, that he has ***refused to retain*** God in his knowledge, willfully turning his back on Him; and **God has accordingly given him up to the uncleanness he really prefers?**

No escape can be found in the claim that man is simply a weak sinner: he has been proven a willful sinner. He is not, without distinct evidence of God.

Fallen man does his own will and is simply as a result, the slave of sin and Satan.

24 Wherefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts unto uncleanness, so that their bodies were dishonored among themselves:

What does it mean that God gave them over?

“God gave them over” of verses 24, 26 and 28

- **This is a step still farther down in evil — the giving to the creature the honor that belongs to God only.**
- **We see here the character, the beginning, and the working of God’s wrath in this world, in His judicial handing over of rebels to go further into rebellion.**

24 Wherefore God gave them over in the lusts of their

hearts unto uncleanness, so that their bodies were
What do the desires of their hearts tell us?

- ❖ *dishonored among themselves:* — This is deeper than the mere lusts (desires) of the flesh.
- ❖ Flesh has natural desires, which may or may not be yielded to.
- ❖ The lusts of the Heart continue after the flesh is dissolved;
- ❖ Even when, in the tormented bodies of the damned, the desires of the flesh cannot be conscious or controlling, **“the lusts of the heart” will forever exist.** Newell

When man is delivered from Divine restraint, the desires of his heart plunge him into ever deeper bodily uncleanness, and bodily vileness.

24” Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be

When one turns ~~from the proper object for the creature,~~ ***—deshonored among them.*** what does he turn to?

- It will be noticed that after his refusal of God, man accomplishes his own personal corruption: **he sins against himself — dishonors his own body.**
- Few who think of this as gross and absolute sin; and fewer still who think so concerning their ignoring of God.
- But the latter (***ignoring of God***) is the very source of evil, and the former the sphere of my *first* responsibility to Him.
- The proper care of my body is a peculiar personal trust given of God, and for which I must give account.

25 such ones as they! who changed the truth of God into the lie! and worshipped and served the created thing rather than the Creator — Who is blessed unto the ages! Amen.

Notice the word "the" lie. What is "the" lie?
2 Thessalonians 2:11 (NKJV) 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie

It is the belief that man can worship other things rather than or along with the One and Only God

Think of it! They worshipped and served the created thing *rather than the Creator*, —who made the creature!

26 On account of this, God gave them over to shameful passions: for their females changed the natural use into that contrary to nature:

Is the Word here talking about the abuse of the natural desires of man?

- There are natural and normal appetites of the body:
- God is not speaking of these, or even of the abuse of these, — adultery or harlotry— (the practice of engaging in sexual activities for money) in this verse.

He is describing that state of unnatural appetites in which all normal instincts are left behind.

QUESTION?

In man's heart he turned from the proper object to the creature.

What happened in his mind? In his actions?

- In his heart he had turned from the proper object for the creature.
- In his mind he became a fool.
- In his acts he showed, both the need of an object outside himself, and the efforts of one who sought to supply it by worshipping different forms of animal life.

Here we have a picture of man, created originally in the image of God and made in His likeness, presented as a man in the world which are not:

- merely ignorant barbarians,
- but civilized nations, cultivated races,
- and educated classes.
- Intellectual abilities of no mean order had been developed.

27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire for one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of God, in which:

- They forget not only the holy relations of marriage
- They forgot even the burnings of ordinary lust,
- They plunge into nameless horrors of **unnatural lust-bondage**, all, males and females, **receiving in themselves** the due recompense of their error.

(KJV)

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies

Compare “among themselves” of verse 24, with “in themselves” of verse 27:

“among themselves” of verse 24

“These words bring out,” as Godet remarks, “the depth of the blight. It is visible to the eyes of all.”

“in themselves”

And Meyer also: “The law of history, in virtue of which the forsaking of God is followed among men by a parallel growth of immorality, is not a purely natural order of things; the *power of God* is active in the execution of this principle.”

CLOSING THOUGHTS FROM Newell

Man will reap the bitter fruits of his refusal of the place of dependence upon God

1. Would a historian have written this about his own moral history?
 - Man may dare to think he is merely neutral, merely uninterested concerning God, but this very attitude is an accusation of falsehood against God.
 - For if the testimony of God is true, then **neutrality** is an utter impossibility. **Neutrality** is a deliberate (though it may be silent) rejection of the truth of God
2. Could we say that this is the real path to homosexuality?
3. This is not a description of the finally damned, but of the at-present-lost: and, *“The Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”*
“Such were some of you,” says Paul

