

Five Destructive Steps

Romans 1:24-32

September 17, 2017

What phrase is used three times in this passage?

- v. 24- "God gave them over."
- v. 26- "God gave them over."
- v. 28- "God gave them over."

The phrase means "abandoned by God" where God removes His restraining grace and allows people to reap what they have sown or suffer the consequences of their willful wrong choices.

Three stages of God's abandonment:

Stage #1: Widespread sexual immorality. (v. 24, 25)

Stage #2: Open homosexuality (v. 26, 27)

Three facts concerning homosexuality from a Biblical perspective:

1. Homosexuality is a willful choice not a biological imperative. (v. 26, 27)
2. Widespread homosexuality is a specific sign of God's abandonment. (v. 26, 27)
3. Homosexuality is a sin but it's a sin that can be forgiven. (1. Cor 6:8-11)

What happened to these homosexuals in I Cor 6:9-11?

They were homosexuals. They are now Christians.

How can you be an effective witness in this upside-down culture?

(two things must be paired together)

Moral conviction and Christ-like compassion

Stage #3: Unrestrained evil (v. 28-32)

What flows out of a pornographic, homosexual, depraved culture?

Unrestrained evil

Paul outlines three things in v. 32 that happens when people have completely and decisively turned away from God:

1. They know what they are doing is wrong.
2. They do the wrong anyway.
3. They praise other wrong doers.

Three things we can do to influence our culture to turn the tide:

1. Pray. (2. Chronicles 7:14)
2. Share the gospel. (Romans 1:16)
3. Live the gospel. (Matthew 5:16)