

The Gospel needed: The slippery slope of abandoning God

Individuals and cultures who abandon God will find themselves on a slippery slope of increasing sinfulness because they are abandoned by God to their sin. It leads to inevitable misery in this life and eternally. Motivated by love, God describes this slippery slope of sin in order to urge people to see their sin and turn to Him for forgiveness through faith in Christ.

Context of this passage:

The Pre-flood culture of Noah's time recorded in Genesis 6:5, 11-13

The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. . . ¹¹ Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. ¹² God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth.

Noah's culture prefigures and predicts the sinful culture of the world in the last days.

Luke 17:25-27

But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. ²⁷ People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

Earlier in Romans 1:18-20 Paul had explained how we are guilty because they suppress God's truth for their unrighteousness. Creation tells them they should not be worshipping something created. Conscience tells them their creator is a moral personal being who will hold them accountable. Ecclesiastes 7:11 says "God set eternity in the heart of man". All this inward and outward evidence is rejected continually by man in order to pursue his own way.

illustration: Man's suppression of God's truth is like "Wack a Mole" game. Knowledge of God keeps popping up in evidence of Creation, the flood and their conscience. His law is written on their heart in their conscience (Romans 2:12-13). They mallet it down whenever it pops up.

Romans 1:24-28 will describe the slippery slope of sin and its miserable consequences. God describes it in detail so you will recognize if you are on this slope of sin.

1. **The slope of sin is led by sexual sin.** It is in regard to God's sexual laws that mankind exhibits its greatest "whack a mole". In 1:24 and 26-27 this is described as not just immorality but homosexuality.
2. **This sexual sin is religious nature.** It is a rejection of God and replacement of themselves as God. Their own appetites and cravings would become their god. 1:23-25. It is ultimately a rejection not just of God's law but of his created order and function for male and female.
3. **Man's sinful replacement of their idols and cravings instead of God is Foolish.** 1:22. This word in the Greek is 'mornos' from which we get moronic. God says of mankind in Ecclesiastes 9:3:

"The hearts of the sons of men are full of evil, and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives"

It is Foolish in replacing the creator with a creature as the object of devotion and wisdom. It is like the foolishness of praising a building instead of the architect and builder of it. Or saying to the golden gate bridge "Praise you bridge. I will exalt and Follow you."

4. **Man's sexual sin is defiant of God's truth:** His created order and function of sex. They exchange the natural for the unnatural sexual function in **1:26**. This 'natural' sexual function refers to God's created design of male and female and his created sexual function in Genesis 2:18-25. Jesus affirms this in Matthew 19:3-7 when he says marriage and sex should be only in heterosexual marriage because "male and female God made them."

5. **Man's sexual sin is Reprehensible.** In **Romans 1:26-27** he describes homosexual practice as something that He abandons man to. That is, it is so disgraceful to Him, as a judgment upon man, he turns them over or abandons them to it. It is an abomination to Him. This means it is an revulsion, outrage and disgrace to Him. In **Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13** God says,

"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination"

God likens it to being as much an abomination as bestiality when he says in Leviticus 18:22-23 **"You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal . . . it is a perversion"**

6. **Man's sexual sin of homosexuality would become increasingly defiant and prevalent.**
 - a. Instead of God, the lusts of their own heart would define their sexual behavior and identity. Some men would take on the role of a woman; some women take on the role of a man. V. 24

 - b. **The further down the slope of sin would be evidenced by man defending it rather than repenting of it. In 1:26-27 "Against nature" implies Paul was answering the claim that homosexuality was OK because it was natural. This argument is described in 1 Cor. 6:12-5** where the common cultural phrase of the day was "food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food." This means if you crave food, eat. If you crave sex in any form, act on it. It is as natural as food is for the stomach.

 - c. Contrary to the common cultural view, the Bible says homosexuality is 'unnatural' that is, not right. Jesus makes it clear that because something comes from the heart and feels natural does not mean it is right. Evil thoughts, murder, lying, thefts, slander and adulteries all come from the heart but are sinful (Matthew 15:19). There has been no evidence of a 'gay gene' to explain homosexual practice. Even if there were, it would not make it right any more than if they discovered a 'lying' a 'pedophile' or an 'incest' gene.

7. The further slide of sin would be the open, brazen, shameless practice of homosexuality in 1:27, homosexual practice is described as **"indecent acts"** This word in the original language meant shameless, open, uncovered, flaunting
8. Intentionally promoting of homosexuality is how a further slide down the slope is described. In 1:27 the word **'committing'** indecent acts meant to do something to accomplish or achieve a purpose. It was used of Paul in Romans 15:18 where he says he wanted to only speak of what Christ 'accomplished' through me. It is also used in James 1:20 where it says "the anger of man does not **achieve** the righteousness of God."

9. The lowest point on the slippery slope of sin is public approval of homosexual and other sins. This is mentioned in 1:32 where it says "although they knew the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them."

Our culture has rapidly slide down the slippery slope of sin. In the Pew Research poll from 2019 it was revealed that in **2005. 61% disapproved of same sex marriage and in 2019. 61% approved. It also revealed these views were spreading in the church.**

In 2005 11% of evangelicals approved of same sex marriage and in 2019. 29%. Approved.

Illustration: The CNN report on The LBGTQ victories rapidly increasing since 1950

10. **God wants us to know Those involved in sexual sin are Redeemable. Rom. 2:4-5**
a. **The context of his describing the slippery slope of sin is the gospel. 1:16-17**

- b. **God's love always seeks to show us our sin. It is the work of the Spirit John 16:7-11; Illustration: not unloving for a parent to warn a child of dire consequences of wrong behavior. God appeals to them by predicting its consequences. 1:27**

C. S. Lewis in *The Problem of Pain*, “[The lost] enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved” ([New York: Macmillan, 1962], pp. 127–28)

- c. **1Corinthians. 6:9-11 says**

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

- d. **God's forgiveness comes through repentance and obedience.**