

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

10/8/17

Text: Romans 1:18-32 (ESV)

Title: God's Design & Our Defiance

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Tim continued our series in Romans as we looked at the end of chapter 1. Like an erupting volcano, where you can only see a fraction of what's really going on underground, we are challenged with sexual sin and brokenness and the reality that there is much more going on beneath the surface. Whether homosexual practice, infidelity, extra-marital relations, abuse, and so on; the reality is that God has given us a good design for how life ought to work, and we sinfully disobey and choose our own way. The heart of sexual deviancy is idolatry, exchanging God's design for our own. The absolute hope of the gospel is that while I wanted to take God's place and rule, Jesus has willingly taken my place and received God's wrath. I am no more or less worthy of God's forgiveness than anyone else, and I get to respond to him with absolute grace and mercy for others, standing firm in His truth and His good design for my life.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. *THERE IS A PLAN:*** Paul writes Romans with an assumption about God's design for sexuality, grounded in creation, that our society often struggles with: man and woman, in marriage, for life. He doesn't single out homosexuality, or any other sexual sin. All are idolatry.
 - Where have you argued or disagreed with God when you considered his design for how the world, or your life, ought to work?**
 - How have you used being "different" as an argument for not following God's design?**
- 2. *HOW DO WE WILLFULLY IGNORE IT?:*** Tim said we often act like sexual sin, especially homosexual sin, is somehow worse, while at the same time making concessions in our church and with our friends when it comes to things like materialism.
 - What people or sins do you tend to be more critical of?**
 - What sins are you more willing to make concessions for?**
- 3. *IS THERE ANY HOPE OF RECOVERY?:*** Jesus came to save sinners, not the righteous. If we think we're not sinful (or not AS sinful as others), then we must not really need Jesus. Like a phone losing its charge, obedience to God is difficult and will deplete our energy if we try to do it alone. We must attach ourselves to a greater power source in Jesus, in God's word and in community, and allow mercy to triumph over judgment in all we do.

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- *Where did you see your greatest need for hope from this sermon?*
- *Where did you see your greatest need for confession from this sermon?*

WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

MISSION

Prepare for Gospel Community:

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.