

Questions for Personal and Group Reflection

September 24, 2017

Reread Romans 1:28-32 and answer the following before your community group meets.

Personal Reflection Questions

1. Many people see homosexual acts as a “perversion,” but have you thought of your personal deceit or boasting as “depraved” (v 28)? Why or Why not?

2. How might you be encouraging idolatry? Consider...
 - Do I ever encourage my children to make idols of exam results?
 - How might I nod sympathetically at someone’s envy?
 - Have I allowed gossip to go on around me unchallenged?

3. How can we deal with some of these issues in loving ways that don’t appear self-righteous?

4. As those who trust Jesus as savior and Lord, we are to read these verses **in light of 1:16-17**, knowing that **we do not need to fear God’s wrath because we have received his righteousness**. This **gives us both the humility and the freedom to ask:**
Q: What idols could be, or are already, jostling for position with my Creator in my heart and life?

This passage prompts us to look for places where we are **envious, slanderous, disloyal, lusting, and so on**. These things are the indication that we are worshiping an idol; that something other than God has become our functional master. And so we need to ask:

Q: What would it look like to depend on my Creator in this area?

Q: How would I love and feel and live differently if I praised my Creator at that point, rather than serving a created thing?

That is the way to turn our *epithumia* , our over-desires, into **simple enjoyment; not serving as slaves what God has made, but appreciating them in praise of God in his world.**

5. How can you ensure that the sinfulness of the world drives you not to self-righteousness, but to the cross of mercy?

6. Are there any ways in which these verses have drawn out self-righteousness in your heart?

Community Group Questions

1. What is a “worldview?” How does Romans 1:18-32 help us perceive fundamental truths about our world?
2. Some theologians use the term “total depravity” to describe the effects of humanity’s fall into sin. They don’t mean that people are completely as bad as they could be but that sin has effected every part (thinking, feeling, doing) of every person’s life (no teaches toddlers to “disobey their parents”). List pointers in these verses, in light of the wider context, that might support this idea?
3. How can Paul say this in light of the many good things that people do each day? What contribution might verse 21 and the other verses like it make to your answer?