

What the Exchange Resulted In (vv. 24-32)
Abnormal Sexual Perversion Prevailed (vv. 24-27)

VERSE 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them (Διὸ παρέδωκεν αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς ἐν ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις τῶν καρδιῶν αὐτῶν εἰς ἀκαθαρσίαν τοῦ ἀτιμάζεσθαι τὰ σώματα αὐτῶν ἐν αὐτοῖς [*conj therefore; as a consequence + aor.act.ind.3s. paradidomi hand or give over; 3x in these verses: vv. 26, 28 + pro.acc.m.p. autos “them” + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s theos + prep en in + d.a.w/noun loc.f.p. epithumia lust + d.a.w/noun gen.f.p. kardia heart + pro.gen.m.p. autos + prep eis + noun acc.f.s. akatharsia impurity + d.a.w/pres.mid.infin. atimazo treat shamefully/disgracefully, dishonor + d.a.w/noun acc.nt.p. soma body + pro.gen.m.pl. autos + prep en + pro.loc.m.p. autos*]).

VERSE 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever (who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. [*pro.nom.m.p. hostis who + aor.act.ind.3p. metallasso exchange + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. aletheia truth + d.a.w/noun gen.m.s. theos + prep en into + d.a.w/noun loc.nt.s. pseudos lie + conj kai + aor.dep.ind.3p. sebazomai worship + conj kai + aor.act.ind.3p. latreuo serve + d.a.w/noun dat.f.s. ktisis creation; creature + prep para rather than + d.a.w/aor.act.part.m.s. ktizo create; “Creator” + rel.pro.nom.m.s. hos who + pres.act.ind.3s. eimi + adj.nom.m.s. eulogetos blessed + prep eis + d.a.w/noun acc.m.p. aion age; “forver”*]).

Amen (*part. amen [Amen]*).

VERSE 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for [even] their women [females] exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural

(διὰ τοῦτο παρέδωκεν αὐτοὺς ὁ θεὸς εἰς πάθη ἀτιμίας, αἷ τε γὰρ θήλειαι αὐτῶν μετήλλαξαν τὴν φυσικὴν χρῆσιν εἰς τὴν παρὰ φύσιν [*prep dia + pro.acc.nt.s. houtos this + aor.act.ind.3s. paradidomi give over + pro.acc.m.p. autos + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + prep eis to + noun acc.nt.p. pathos passion + noun gen.f.s. atimia disgrace, dishonor + enclitic part. te even + conj gar for + d.a.w/adj.nom.f.p. thelos female + aor.act.ind.3p. metallasso exchange + d.a.w/adj.acc.f.s. phusikos natural + noun acc.f.s. chresisi function (always of sexual intercourse) + prep eis for + d.a.acc.f.s. + prep. para against + noun acc.f.s. phusis nature; “unnatural”*]),

VERSE 27 and in the same way also the men [males] abandoned the natural function of the woman [female] and burned in their desire toward one another

(ὁμοίως τε καὶ οἱ ἄρσενες ἀφέντες τὴν φυσικὴν χρῆσιν τῆς θηλείας ἐξεκαύθησαν ἐν τῇ ὀρέξει αὐτῶν εἰς ἀλλήλους, [*adv homoios same + part te way + conj kai also + d.a.w/adj.nom.m.p. arshen male + aor.act.part.nom.m.p. aphiemi abandon, forsake + d.a.w/adj.acc.f.s. phusikos natural + noun acc.f.s. chresis function (sexual) + d.a./w/adj.gen.f.s. thelos female + aor.pass.ind.3p. ekkaiomai be inflamed (of lust); only here + prep en + d.a.w/noun loc.f.s. orezis lustful passion; desire + pro.gen.m.p. autos + prep eis + pro.acc.m.p. allelon on another*], **men [males] with men [males] committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error** [*ἄρσενες ἐν ἄρσεσιν τὴν ἀσχημοσύνην κατεργαζόμενοι καὶ τὴν ἀντιμισθίαν ἣν ἔδει τῆς πλάνης αὐτῶν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς ἀπολαμβάνοντες* [*adj.nom.m.p. arsen male + prep en + adj.instr.m.p. arsen + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. aschomosune shameful act; “indecent acts”; also at Rev. 16:15 + pres.dep.part.nom.m.p. kateragazmai accomplish; “committing” + conj kai and + d.a.w/noun acc.f.s. antimisthia recompense, reciprocal; “” + pro.acc.f.s. hos which + impf.act.ind.3s. dei proper; “due” + d.a.w/noun*

gen.f.s. plane error + pro.gen.m.p. autos “their” + prep en + reciprocal pro.dat.m.p. heautou “their own persons” + pres.act.part.nom.m.p. apolabano receive]).

ANALYSIS: VERSES 24-27

1. In verses 21-23 Paul establishes the descent into paganism.
2. The apostasy following the Tower of Babel incident eventually spread to all the dispersed peoples of the earth.
3. The mother-son cult (a counterfeit of the seed of the woman prophecy) established itself in the major nations of the earth.
4. In verses 24 to the end of this chapter Paul cites the moral degeneracy that went hand-in-hand with the worship of idols.
5. In a series of three statements Paul declares that “God gave them over” to unrestrained STA activity.
6. False religion always begets moral degeneracy with all its manifestations.
7. Rejection of God as revealed in the natural world leads to moral depravity.
8. God gave the Gentile nations free reign to follow “the lusts of their hearts.”
9. This is noted as well in Acts 14:16 (“In the generations gone by He permitted the nations to go their own ways.”) and in Acts 17:30 (“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring that all *people* everywhere should repent.”).
10. The Advent of Christ and the beginning of the Church Age the Gentiles are held to an even higher level of culpability (Acts 17:30ff.).
11. World wide evangelism and spread of Christianity established a higher level of responsibility.
12. The Gentiles not only have the witness of God via the creation, they now have the witness of the Gospel.
13. The noun translated “impurity” (*akatharsia*) refers to sexual vice (as in 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:7).
14. The particular and most egregious manifest of STA sex lust is same-sex activity as noted in vv. 26 & 27 (lesbianism and homosexuality).
15. The phrase “with a result that their bodies would be dishonored among them” in context has to do with same-sex perversion.
16. Verse 25 repeats the thought of v. 23.
17. Repudiation of the witness of creation and the descent into idolatry fueled their lust pattern even to the point of abnormal sexual perversion.
18. God designed the human body for procreation and recreation between a man and a woman (married).
19. Normal sexual perversion is that between two individuals of the same gender.
20. So negative volition at God-consciousness resulted in exchanging truth (divine attributes) for a lie.
21. The reiteration in verse 25 serves to: (1) amplify the severity of the offense; (2) reaffirm the basis for their consignment to STA lusts; (3) establish the connection between repudiation of the Creator with moral depravity.
22. The big lie is stated as: “and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator.”
23. The inventor of an idol fashions something after a created entity which is perishable and finite.

24. But God alone is worthy of worship which evoked a declaration of God's transcendent blessedness ("who is blessed forever.").
25. Implicit in this affirmation is the fact that God is unchanged by all the dishonor directed at His Person.
26. The "Amen" is Paul's personal acknowledgement to God's status as blessed forever.
27. The descent of the Gentile nations into religious apostasy (idolatry) and rampant STA activity was unimpeded by God as noted in vv. 24 and here in v. 26 and once more in v. 28.
28. His wrath that came upon the Gentiles did not result in repentance.
29. The indictment of the Gentiles moves from idolatrous practices to STA activity with sexual sins mentioned first.
30. In verse 26 and 27 Paul specifies what he alluded to in v. 24.
31. He cites the worst of the worst and that is same-sex perversion.
32. It is of interest to note that Paul makes mention of "their females" first (v. 26).
33. The phrase "for even their females" underscores the fall from womanhood and motherhood.
34. Note the repeated use of "exchanged" which refers to abandonment of the divine institution of marriage.
35. As well as abandonment of "the natural function" based on female physiology.
36. Lesbianism constitutes a "degrading passion."
37. Females are **not** born that way! Rather the individual female chooses to engage in a perverse relationship with another female.
38. We should hold the same attitude as the apostle.
39. So here is the "natural function" over against the "unnatural."
40. The natural order of things tells us that a female is designed body and soul for a male.
41. Paul refrains from giving a detailed description of this vice that he does with the corresponding male vice.
42. Likely, he does so out of a sensitivity and respect for the opposite sex.
43. In detailing the parallel male abnormal vice (v. 27), Paul expresses the male abnormal perversion in four statements.
44. "And in the same way" refers to the female example.
45. The first of the four descriptions of male homosexuality is: "the males abandoned the natural function of the woman."
46. This indicates the fact that the heterosexual act is honorable.
47. Note 1 Cor. 7:1-7 in this regard.
48. Homosexuality constitutes the abandonment of the divine order from the creation of Adam and Eve.
49. The second description points to the intensity of the male homosexual: "burned in their desire toward one another."
50. For those in bondage to this perversion there is an insatiable lust.
51. The third observation is: "males with males committing indecent acts" (sodomy, etc.).
52. "Men with men" represents a biological anomaly—that is, a deviation from the divine order between man and woman.
53. Here we have a polite reference to homosexual intercourse.
54. Note Eph. 5:12 in this regard ("for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.").
55. The fourth and final observation concerns the retribution that falls on those who engage in this vice.

56. Paul says, that they “receive in their own persons the due penalty of their error.”
57. Disease and physical and mental disorders abound (there is an entire hospital just for gays in Seattle).
58. The lifestyle for especially the homosexual is appalling.
59. Sexually transmitted diseases are an obvious path to divine wrath, whether normal or abnormal perversion.
60. The Greek language has a specific term for this perversion, and it is: ἀρσενοκοίταις (plural, at 1 Cor. 6:9 & 1 Tim. 1:10).