

## Honor God, Our Creator part 2

**SCRIPTURE:** *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,<sup>[a]</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground."<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.<sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:26-28*

- We were made in the image and likeness of God with a will and a conscience. We are in fact a reflection of who God is.
- God created man and woman. And we were commanded to be fruitful and multiply to fill the earth.
- The recent ruling of the Supreme Court brings all this to question. What has happened to mankind? Have we forgotten what has been taught to us in the Bible and over time?
- Hebrews 13:4 tells us ***Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.***
- David Wells, a Christian professor, author and theologian wrote *Worldliness is that system of values, in any given age which has at its center our fallen human perspective, which displaces God and His truth from the world, and which makes sin look normal and righteousness seem strange. It thus gives great plausibility to what is morally wrong and, for the reason, makes what is wrong seem normal"*

Why does God put so much emphasis on honor?

- Romans 1:21-25 says ***1 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.***
- Honor is really an issue of the heart. It is easy to say we honor someone with our lips but in our hearts dishonor and disrespect them.
- Here in this verse we see that the people had exchange the worship of God and instead opted to worship animals. When we give our allegiance to something that was created by God instead of giving Him our worship then we dishonor God. And that is why God gave them over to impurity.
- Remember when God created us he gave us free will. And it is this free will which allows us to choose if we come to worship God or not. We are free to choose but we cannot escape the consequences of our choices.

Romans 1 continues to say in 26-32 ***26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips,<sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents;<sup>31</sup> they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.***

- Our society today is no different from the time when Paul was writing to the Romans. The issues today are no different from the issues of that time. In the same way, God's disdain for these practices has not changed.
- If we remember in Genesis 19, this was the same problem in Sodom and Gomorrah. In Abraham's bargaining with God, he could not even find 10 just men in Sodom and Gomorrah. God's anger and judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sin is the same anger and judgment He had for the people to whom Paul was talking about in the book of Romans.

- The Bible has been constant and unwavering in its stand against this kind of relationships. Leviticus 20:15-16 says <sup>15</sup> **“If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he is to be put to death, and you must kill the animal.”** <sup>16</sup> **“If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.** In verse 13 it says **‘If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.**
- There are many other verse in the bible that deals with this issue: Jude 1:7; 1 Corinthians 9:9-11; Revelation 21:8; and Galatians 5:19-21. God’s message is the same. The people who freely choose to follow the path of immorality there will be an eternal punishment waiting for them.
- For those of us who have chosen to be disciples of Jesus, for those of us who have chosen to faithfully obey God’s commands let us remember the words in Luke 17: 26-30. This is a reminder for all of us that the same has happened before and God’s judgment as before, will come when in the appointed time.
- Isaiah 3:9 says **the expression of their faces bears witness against them, and they display their sin like Sodom; they do not even conceal it. Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.**

How then do we respond?

- 2 Peter 3:8-9 says <sup>8</sup> **But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.** <sup>9</sup> **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**
- We are to do what Noah did. Let us become preachers of righteousness (2 Peter 2:4-10).
- Like Noah, while we await the day that God has appointed **We are to preach the word, be ready in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.** (2 Timothy 4:1-5)
- They should be able to see God’s love and grace in our life. In the same way, they should see our response to God’s grace – the transformation in our lives as we draw closer to God.
- This should be our response:  
**L – Love them like Christ**  
**G – Give them grace**  
**B – Bless and pray for them**  
**T – Trust God to save them**

We were once part of the world, we were once sinners ... but we have been saved by grace ( John 3:16). It is God’s desire that all of us should have a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and develop a vibrant relationship with Him. And when they have come to this saving knowledge then they too can become new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17) Nothing is impossible with God and He can make all things new. Revelation 21:5 says **behold I am making all things new. And He said, Write for these words are faithful and true.**

**APPLICATION:**

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: How did you respond to the news of the Supreme Court?          What is God’s word teaching you about what is happening in the world today?          What is your response to Revelation 21:5?</p>
	<p>Family: How can your family respond to the call to be like Noah and become preachers of righteousness?          What can you as a family do to share the love and grace of God to others?          How can your family be witnesses for Christ?</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Have you shared God’s love with anyone lately?          Is God’s love prompting you to open yourself to a discipleship relationship?</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: Is God prompting you to work in His ministry?          How can you best reflect God’s grace and love in your community?</p>

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.