

The Dark Ages

Part 2

Key Scriptures: Romans 1:24-27; Romans 1:28-32; 1 Corinthians 6: 19-20; Romans 5:8

1. Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever taken something that wasn't yours? Maybe it belonged to a sibling, or parent, or your job, or even a store. Tell about the funniest time you got caught taking something that didn't belong to you. What happened after? Did you ever do that again?
- If you ever took something that wasn't yours, no matter how big or small, important or insignificant, what does that make you? (My guess is 100% of people have taken something that wasn't theirs.) Can God possibly forgive you for being a thief? Why or why not?

2. Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Romans 1:24. How does God define "sexual impurity" and "degrading their bodies"? What other verses in scripture support this? ([Hebrews 13:4](#); [1 Corinthians 6:18-20](#); [1 Corinthians 7:2](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#); [1 Corinthians 6:13](#); [Mark 7:20-23](#); [Jude 1:7](#); [1 Thessalonians 4:3-4](#))
- Why does God forbid fornication (sex outside of marriage), adultery, homosexuality, and rape? If God is for our very best and refuses to condone things that can harm us (or others that He is for their best), why do people get so upset when they do these things, and suffer consequences? Why do we not listen, and pursue what is the best for us?
- Read Romans 1:26-27. What does God mean by natural relations? What is physically possible through natural sexual relations between a man and a woman that is never physically possible in a same-sex union? How does this relate to God's command in Genesis 1:28?
- Read Romans 1:25. What "created things" might be the focus of your worship when you are burning with sexual desire? What "created thing" might you be serving? What are the consequences? (See [Ephesians 4:19](#))

3. Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What does Brandon mean when he says we live in a "Hyper sexualized" society? How do you see that in our schools? In our jobs? In social media? In TV, movies, and streaming platforms? Is this different from the time that Paul was writing to the church in Rome?
- How does depression or joy affect your relationships? How does loneliness or popularity affect your relationships? How do labels or peer pressure affect your relationships? How do past hurts or betrayals affect your relationships? How should being a new creation affect your relationships? ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#))
- If we are trading the truth of God for a lie, how does that ultimately affect us? (Romans 1:28-32) When is sin a problem? Does sin stop being a problem when it's not physically hurting someone? Is sin a problem when it happens by us, to us, and/or around us? Why or why not?
- What was the crime that the two men crucified beside Jesus committed? If we have all been thieves sometime in our lives, we deserve punishment too. But what happened to each thief on the cross? Did the thief Jesus promised would be with Him in paradise do anything to earn forgiveness? Did he do anything to confirm his faith? What does that mean for us?

4. Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray for your heart and for others not to be offended, but to be convicted by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that we speak to and love the people in our lives well. Pray against the sinful desires in your life and in the lives of those we love. Pray that we find freedom in Christ as new creations, born again into the Kingdom of God.

5. Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Put this prayer list in action this week and live out God's Love for others well!