



Fall Sermon Series | *The Story Houston* | www.thestory.church | thestoryhouston@gmail
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Part Two: But I'm a Good Person (Rom. 1:18-3:20)

*There's nothing for me to change from;
it's not like I ever considered myself a bad person.*
- Bernie Madoff

Let's begin with a simple question. Just be honest here. Do you consider yourself to be a good person? Why or why not?

In this week's reading, Paul calls us out when we are **crystal-clear about other people's sins but deluded about our own**. Can you think of any specific ways you've fallen prey to this kind of self-deception?

Rom. 1:18-25 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

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. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised.



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Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised.

These verses are talking about people who “suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” What truth are they suppressing, and why do they have no excuse?

What happens to people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness?

What is another word for what the Bible calls “the wrath of God”?

Rom. 2:1-4 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

It’s *en vogue* to not claim any specific worldview (like a religious identity, for example) and simply commit to being a good person. What’s wrong with just being a good person?

How does “just being a good person” invariably lead to judgmentalism?

Some Christians have been known to say, “Love the sinner, hate the sin.” Where does this phrase fall short, and how can it be amended to better reflect the gospel?

Love _____, hate _____.

What other questions or insights did this message raise for you?

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