

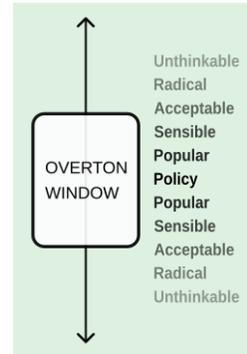


Sin Among the Gentiles

Romans 1:18-32

Something to Start Us Off

- The Overton Window, named after Joseph Overton, “is the range of subjects and arguments politically acceptable to the mainstream population at a given time. It is also known as the window of discourse. The key to the concept is that the window changes over time; it can shift or shrink or expand. It exemplifies ‘the slow evolution of societal values and norms.’” (Wikipedia)



Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 1:18-32 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 1:18 *men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth*
- 1:20 *So they are without excuse*
- 1:22 *Claiming to be wise, they became fools*
- 1:24, 26, 28 *God gave them up (3x)*

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* The Roman church, like the city, was already rather large and diverse, consisting of significant numbers of both Jews and Gentiles.

* This first section of the letter discusses sin. Paul starts by looking at sin among the Gentiles. Sin among the Jews looks different—he will get to that later.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think Paul means, when he says, “what can be known about God is plain to them” and “his invisible attributes ... have been clearly perceived”? (1:19-20)
- In what ways do people “exchange the truth about God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator”? (1:25)
- In 1:32, Paul speaks not only of people who practice evil things, but of those who “give approval to those who practice them.” How would you say that happens?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 1:21 this week. Keep your eyes open for the way our world ignores God resulting in a foolish and darkened heart.