



ROMANS

— a new family of faith in the age of empire —

POST MODERNITY



08/17/98

“That depends on
what the meaning
of the word ‘is’ is.”

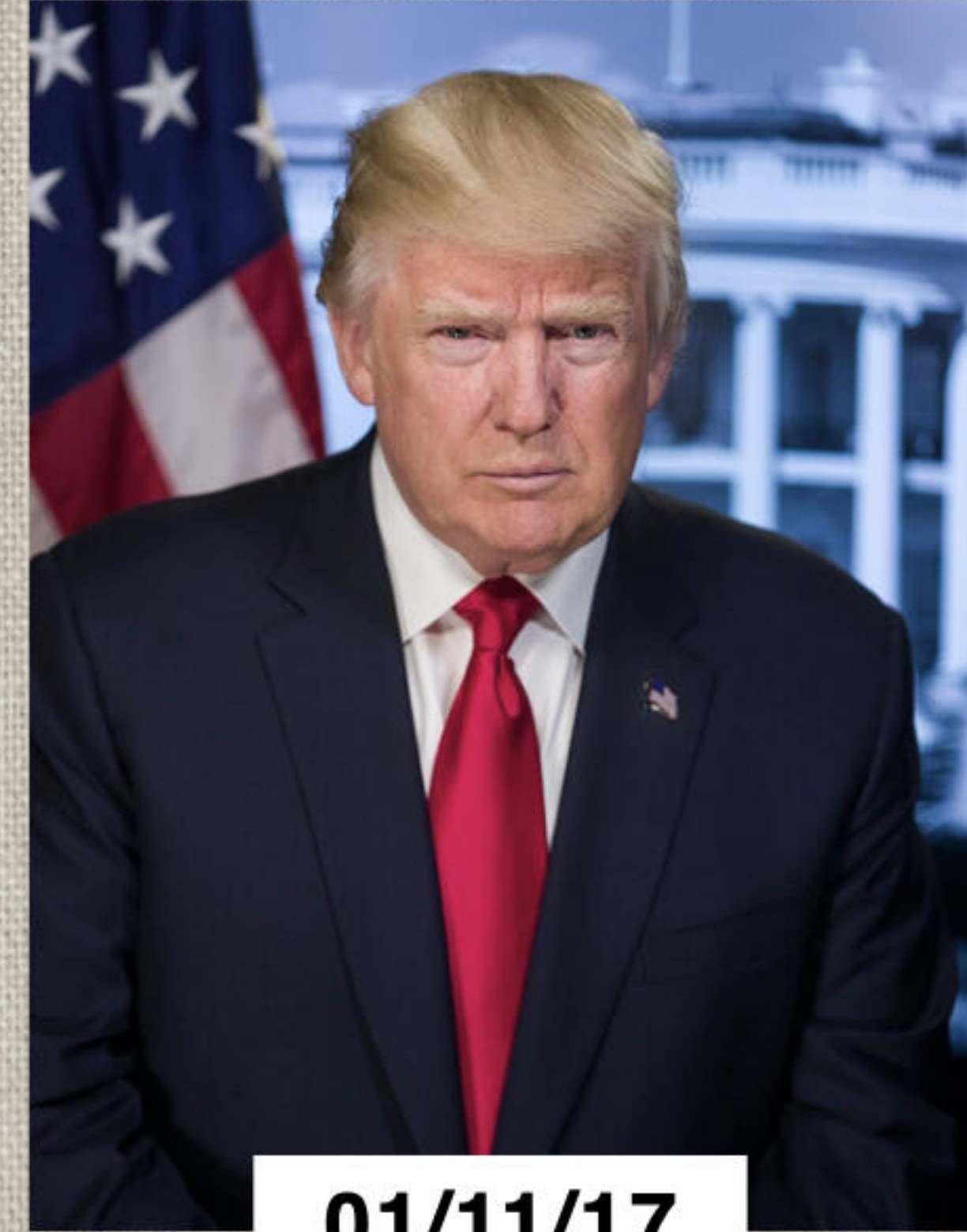
POST MODERNITY



08/17/98

“That depends on what the meaning of the word ‘is’ is.”

HYPER MODERNITY



01/11/17

“Your organization is terrible. You are fake news.”



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ROMANS 1:18-19

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

ROMANS 1:20

²⁰ 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.

ROMANS 1:21

²¹ 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.

ROMANS 1:22-23

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.

ROMANS 1:24

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.

ROMANS 1:25

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.

ROMANS 1:26

²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones.

ROMANS 1:27

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.

ROMANS 1:28

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.

ROMANS 1:29

²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice.

ROMANS 1:30-31

They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

ROMANS 1:32

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.

ROMANS 2:1

¹ 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.



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ROMANS 1:1-7 Paul's Introduction

ROMANS 1:8-17 Thanksgiving and Future Plans

ROMANS 1:18-20 God's Wrath & Judgement

ROMANS 1:21-32

1

Idolatry

God gives
them over

Embodied Sin

2

Idolatry

God gives
them over

Embodied Sin

3

Idolatry

God gives
them over

Embodied Sin

ROMANS 1:21-24

1

Idolatry

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Embodied Sin

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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.

ROMANS 1:25-27

2

Idolatry

God gives
them over

Embodied Sin

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. 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.

ROMANS 1:28-32

3

Idolatry

God gives
them over

Embodied Sin

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, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.



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**WHAT IS
SCRIPTURE'S
ARTICULATION OF A
CHRIST-HONORING
SEXUAL ETHIC?**

Pittsburgh City Paper - September 7, 2022

"It is an awkward position to be in when you are queer, poly, a pastor, and serving a super conservative church."

"None of the people in my congregations know that I am bisexual and polyamorous. They have loved me and my wife so well, and it's disheartening to know that if they were aware I practice non-monogamy and want to pursue a same-sex relationship, my parishioners would likely reject me as their pastor and ask for a revocation of my credentials."

Pittsburgh City Paper - September 7, 2022

"My parishioners say they love me, but is it love when I cannot be open about who I truly am? How can I effectively lead as a pastor when I have to keep part of myself hidden? How can I be my most authentic self when I cannot express part of myself because of the backlash I would receive? It can be quite confusing to experience such conditional love."

Pittsburgh City Paper - September 7, 2022

"I can post pictures of my wife on social media, but my girlfriend must endure the heartache of not being able to post photos of us because my church folks could find out. Thankfully, she understands my situation, but my wife and I dream about having my girlfriend and her son move in with us. My wife also dreams of having partners other than me but knows that we cannot fully live this out without facing judgment from the church. Unfortunately, for the time being, it is nothing more than a dream."

Pittsburgh City Paper - September 7, 2022

"I've been asked several times why I remain a pastor in a system that would seemingly reject who I am. The reality is that I have tried so many other things in life and have not been happy. Being a pastor is a calling. I know this is what I have been made to do."

Pittsburgh City Paper - September 7, 2022

"Until the [a change] happens, I fantasize about what my dream life looks like. I'd love nothing more than to have my house full with my wife, her partners, my girlfriend, and possibly a boyfriend if I met the right person. I would be ecstatic to come home from work and be greeted by all of them, then cook dinner and enjoy family time. I would adore the idea of having snuggles with all of them on the couch and watching a movie. I would love the chance to go out as a polycule and enjoy dinner, movies, and parks."

Pittsburgh City Paper - September 7, 2022

"I don't think I'll ever understand why there are people in the church so against love."

"Maybe one day, Christians will take the teaching of 'loving your neighbor as yourself' more seriously. Until then, I will continue to preach it loudly and proudly, even if it falls on deaf ears."



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**WHAT IS
SCRIPTURE'S
ARTICULATION OF A
CHRIST-HONORING
SEXUAL ETHIC?**

**1. REJECT THE TEMPTATION OF
HYPERMODERNITY TO VILIFY THOSE
WHO DISAGREE WITH YOU WITHOUT
BEING ABLE TO ARTICULATE WHY YOU
HOLD YOUR OWN POSITIONS.**

**2. STOP TRYING TO BE UNOFFENSIVE.
WORK ON BEING UNOFFENDABLE.**

**3. DON'T REDUCE HUMAN BEINGS, MADE
IN GOD'S IMAGE, DOWN TO AN
IDEOLOGY YOU CAN DENOUNCE.**

**4. IT'S GOD'S JOB TO JUDGE, THE HOLY
SPIRIT'S JOB TO CONVICT, AND MY
JOB TO LOVE.**



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