

things, yet they go right ahead and do them anyway. And, worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too" (1:32) NLT.

Internet Porn, Television programs, Music Videos, Hollywood movies, Magazines and some wild mob parties support this damning and dangerous lifestyle.

3. Why be Concerned? Christians live in this kind of world today and find themselves being forced to accept it in some way or other. Though it is contrary to the absolute Biblical truth they believe, it is being thrust upon them in so many ways, and they can succumb to it. The Old Testament 'Christian' called Lot, is a warning to us. *"He was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that good man, dwelling among them, was tormented day and night by the evil things that he saw and heard)"* (2 Peter 2:7-8). Cp. Genesis 19

4. Why Should We Care?

a) Because of who we are: As Christians who believe God, the Bible, Christ and Christian values, we need *"to contend earnestly, (defend, fight hard, and struggle) for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"* (Jude 3).

b) Because we are like light: Live out the Christian values in a 'non-Christian world. Jesus said,

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

c) Because we are like Salt: Salt flavors, purifies and preserves. Sprinkled among the peoples of the world, we can influence people for the good, the better, and the pure. Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth"* (Matthew 5:13).

d) Because you belong to Jesus: As Christians we have taken the name of Jesus and must stay morally clean and pure (2 Timothy 2:19). Our Savior loved us and died in our place for our sin and we must *say NO to ungodly living* (Titus 2:11-13). Remember, He will return soon to deliver us (2 Peter 3:11-12).

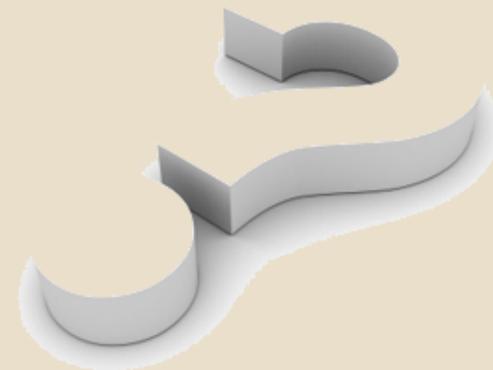
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Tell Me Why?

Romans 1:16-32



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Tell Me Why?

Romans 1:16 -32

We live in an increasingly sophisticated and educated world. The rise of instant communication technologies made possible through use of the internet, such as email, texting, and IM (instant messaging) and new media used through websites like YouTube and social networking sites, may explain Generation Y's reputation for being peer oriented and for seeking instant gratification. This trend of communication is continuing into Generation Z. (© *Generation Y - Wikipedia*)

Often today when a person is instructed to do something there is an inbuilt reaction that takes place in the psyche that prompts the person to ask the question "Why?"

In many ways the question is valid, if the person for various reasons is ignorant or unaware of the need to do such a thing. But if the person is so absorbed in his technological world that he does not believe he should do what is asked of him, then the question poses serious problems, for interpersonal relationships, work relations and responsibilities.

Tell Me Why the 'Why'? Generation Y (those born in the 70's) —has grown out of generation X—the Baby

Boomers of the 50's, who spent a lot of time doing things they did not necessarily believe in. They began to question values and beliefs, which became popularized in many TV programs. In reality they give in to doubt and ask the 'why' questions. We now have a generation of 'skeptics.'

It was only natural that the Generation Y should be noted for asking the "why" question before anything else.

This present day phenomenon greatly impacts the Christian community. It is no longer enough to know what we believe. It is essential to know 'why' we believe it.

Believing something does not make it true. A thing is true or not, regardless of whether anyone believes it. This is particularly true of Christianity.

1. Truth and Error: The gospel is always equated with 'truth.' Truth is always the opposite of error (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12). Non-Christians are defined by Paul as those who '*reject the truth*' (Romans 2:8). These statements would be meaningless unless there were a way to establish what truth is. Otherwise there develops a synthesized mixture of truth and error which is totally based on irrational logic and personal preference.

In such a framework, asking the question "why" becomes very

important. The present day increase of anti social behavior against established rules and regulations, along with insensitive selfish pleasures via drugs, lust and crime, only reveals the results of "whyism."

2. Objective Truth: In writing to the Romans, the apostle Paul makes it clear that people have enough knowledge from creation itself to know there is a God (Romans 1:20).

He goes on to show that the basic reason people do not know God, is not because he cannot be known or understood, but because human beings have rebelled against him, the Creator. "*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him (1:21) and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man (1:23) They exchanged the truth of God for a lie" (1:25) and "did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God" (1:28).*

Today, people are doing the same thing. They "*exchange the truth of God for a lie" (1:25) and "suppress the truth, by their wickedness" (1:18).*

Paul in Romans 1:24 -32 describes the depraved sinful sensual lifestyle of people who believe and act this way. He concludes by saying, "*They are fully aware of God's death penalty for those who do these*