

# *Identifying Idols In Our Lives*



*Part 1: Introduction*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *A Starting Point ...*

Do you believe that God, who created us and formed us by hand, knows infinitely more about what will benefit us, and what will bring us harm?

*Identifying Idols*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *A Starting Point ...*

*“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today **for your own good.**”*

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

*Identifying Idols*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *Why Study Idolatry?*

- ▶ We all worship something or someone other than God.
- ▶ Our worship of people and things does not involve graven images, but it is idolatry nonetheless.
- ▶ Worship of idols is not only a matter of loving something or someone *more* than God; it is often the case that we also love God *less*.
- ▶ The First Command, in both the Old and New Testament, is to love God with all of your heart, soul, strength and mind.

*Identifying Idols*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *What Is An Idol?*

- ▶ *“Anything can be an idol, and everything has been an idol.”*  
-Tim Keller
- ▶ *“[An idol] is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give you.”*

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- ▶ *“Sin is making good things into ultimate things.”*

*Identifying Idols*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *Examples of Idols*

Ministry

Beauty

Recognition

Making Money

An Important Cause

Doctrine

Significant Other

Safety

Peer Approval

Romance/Love

Success

Children

Knowledge

Family

Choice

Career

Social Standing

Impact

Appearance

Control

Achievement

Comfort

Consumerism

*Identifying Idols*





# *What Do You Worship?*

## *What Is Wrong With Idolatry?*



*Identifying Idols*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *What Is Wrong With Idolatry?*

*“You love God. You’ve experienced salvation through faith in Christ. You pray. You read your Bible. You worship regularly. You give financially and willingly through works of service to His kingdom.*

*But something is wrong. Something is missing. Something is not working. You’re not alone.*

*We seldom realize it when it happens, but our lives can easily become infected with modern idolatries that look utterly harmless, sometimes even virtuous. But those ‘user-friendly’ idols distract us from a whole-hearted, single-minded devotion to God, and become the enemies of our souls.*

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## *What Is Wrong With Idolatry?*

*But suppose – just suppose – there is something standing between you and God, something hindering answers to your most heartfelt prayers, something impeding your spiritual growth, something making it harder for you to feel God’s presence and experience his blessings on your life. Suppose you could discover the reason for your lack of victory over some habitual sin or your lack of deliverance from some burden or bitterness.”*

- Bob Hostetler, “American Idols”

*Identifying Idols*



# *What Do You Worship?*

## *Getting What You Want...*

*“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 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. Amen.”*

- Romans 1:21-25

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## *Getting What You Want...*

*Next Week:*

**Money as an Idol**

*Identifying Idols*