

Identifying Idols In Our Lives



Part 2: Money



What Do You Worship?

Why Study Idolatry?

- ▶ God, who created us, knows us best and has our best interests in mind, wants us to worship Him, and only Him.
- ▶ Yet, we all struggle with idols that distract us from whole-hearted, single-minded devotion to God.
- ▶ Idolatry is a problem not just because idols compete with our love for God, but also because if we are honest with ourselves, we don't really know how to love God.
- ▶ Most idols are good things, made into ultimate things.

Identifying Idols



What Do You Worship?

What Is An Idol?

▶ “[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.”

- Tim Keller
Counterfeit Gods

Identifying Idols



What Do You Worship?

Examples of Idols

Ministry

Beauty

Recognition

An Important Cause

Making Money

Significant Other

Doctrine

Peer Approval

Safety

Romance/Love

Success

Children

Family

Choice

Knowledge

Social Standing

Career

Appearance

Impact

Control

Achievement

Comfort

Consumerism

Identifying Idols



What Do You Worship?

What Is Wrong With Idolatry?

*“But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an **idolater** or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people.”*

- 1 Corinthians 5:10

*The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **idolatry** and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

-Galatians 5:19-21

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

**Is Money an Idol
In Your Life?**

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

- No way. I don't even have any money. I'm barely making it as it is.
- I am so careful about what I spend, so there is no way it can be an idol.
- Sure, I spend a lot, but I also give generously.
- God knows my heart, and He knows that I love Him more than money or my possessions.



Do You Worship Money?

“A life story could be written from a checkbook. It reflects your goals, priorities, convictions, relationships, and even the use of your time. A person who has been a Christian for even a short while can fake prayer, Bible study, evangelism, going to church, and so on, but he can’t fake what his checkbook reveals.”

- Ron Blue
Author and Finance Teacher

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Matthew 6:24

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

**“Whoever loves money never has enough;
whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their
income. This too is meaningless.**

**As goods increase,
so do those who consume them.
And what benefit are they to the owners
except to feast their eyes on them?”**

Ecclesiastes 5:10-11

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

**“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.
Some people, eager for money,
have wandered from the faith and pierced
themselves with many griefs.”**

1 Timothy 6:10

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Luke 12:15

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

Jesus said: “... any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.”

Luke 14:33

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

**“If I have put my trust in gold or said
to pure gold, ‘You are my security,’
If I have rejoiced over my great wealth,
The fortune my hands had gained, ...**

**... then these also would be sins to be judged,
for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.”**

Job 31:28

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

**Is Money an Idol
In Your Life?**

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

- ▶ Do you spend significant time thinking about things that you want to purchase?
- ▶ Are there things that you believe will make you happier if you are able to purchase?
- ▶ Do you find yourself purchasing things that will make you feel more comfortable in this life?
- ▶ Do you feel more secure when you have money in your possession? Do you feel anxious when you don't have enough money?

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

- ▶ Do you ever wish to have things that only wealthy people seem to enjoy?
- ▶ Do you envy others that have more than you do?
- ▶ Do you have a hard time spending money on other people?
- ▶ Would you have a hard time lending money to someone that you know if they asked you for a loan? How about a sizeable loan that would deplete a good portion of your savings?

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

- ▶ Could someone fairly say that you are frugal?
- ▶ Do you decide to purchase something (or do something) based primarily on whether or not you can afford it?
- ▶ Are you disappointed when you have just bought something, and a better version comes out a few weeks later?
- ▶ Do you feel strange when you buy something, and a friend buys the same thing? Or a better thing?

Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

- ▶ Do you get upset when something you own gets damaged, breaks, or wears out?
- ▶ Do you find yourself purchasing things for comfort, rather than need?
- ▶ Do you give away enough of your income that you are often stretching your ability to give that much away?

Identifying Idols



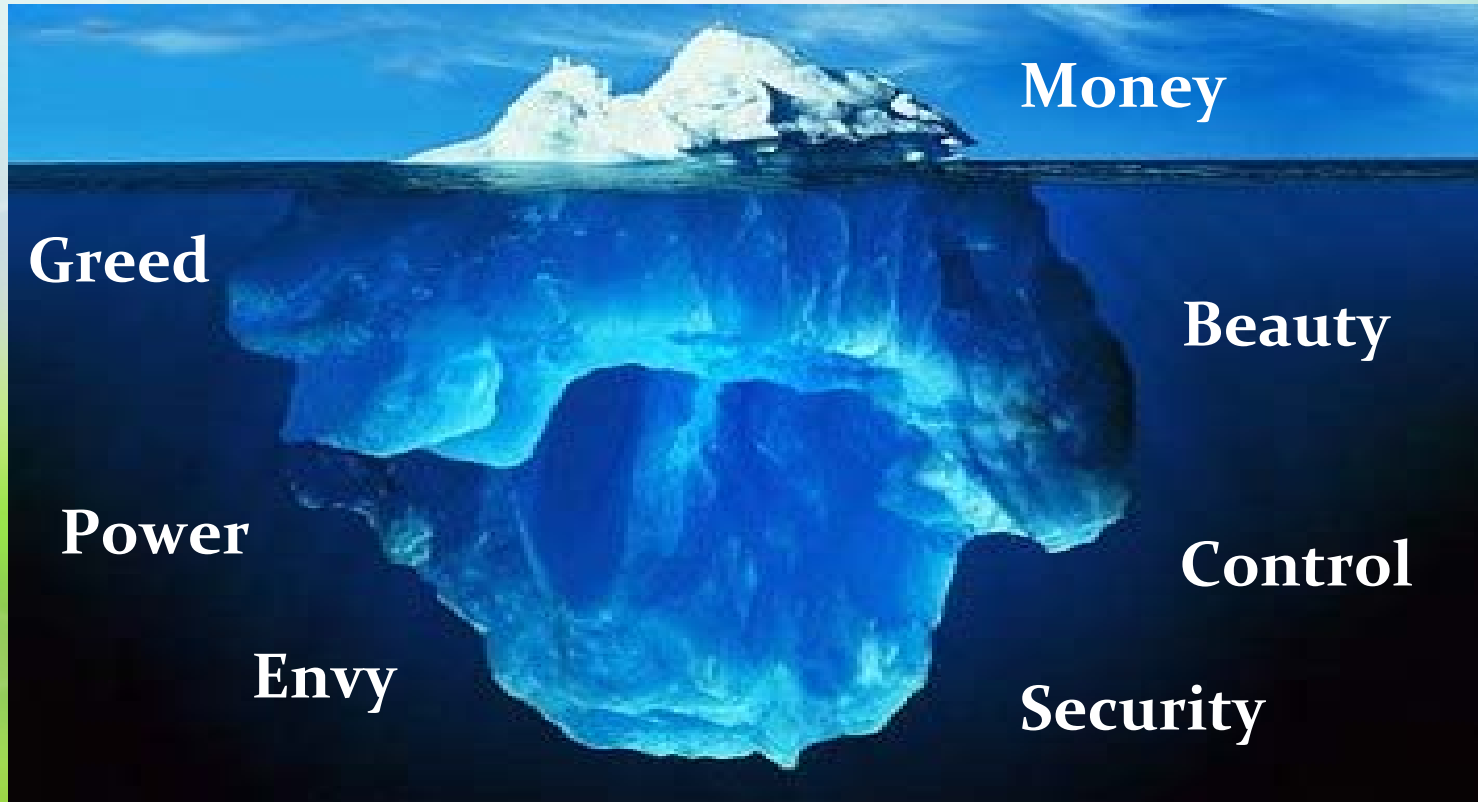
Do You Worship Money?



Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?



Identifying Idols



Do You Worship Money?

**“Keep your lives free from the love of money
and be content with what you have,
because God has said,**

**“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”**

Hebrews 13:5

Identifying Idols



What Do You Worship?

Getting What You Want...

Next Week:

More Idols We Crave

Love and Relationships

Identifying Idols