

Identifying Idols In Our Lives



Part 6: Replacing Idols



What Do You Worship?

Idolatry Defined

We all struggle with idols that distract us from whole-hearted, single-minded devotion to God.

This series is intensely personal: What idol stands between you and whole-hearted, single-minded devotion to God?

“[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.”



Who Do You Worship?

Why Is Idolatry So Bad?

Identifying Idols



Worshipping Idols

- ▶ I assume that you have them, just like I do.

“Though few will own it, nothing is more common.
If we think of our soul as a house,
idols are set up in every room,
in every faculty.”

- *David Clarkson, 17th century pastor*

Identifying Idols



Why Are Idols So Bad?

► Pragmatically/Selfishness:

If we build our lives (identity) on an unsure foundation, we should expect it to come crashing down. The results will be disastrous.

Identifying Idols



Why Are Idols So Bad?

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

“By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

Identifying Idols



Why Are Idols So Bad?

- ▶ Pragmatically/Selfishness:

If we build our lives (identity) on an unsure foundation, we should expect it to come crashing down. The results will be disastrous.

- ▶ God cares about our flourishing. Idols oppose our flourishing.

Identifying Idols



Why Are Idols So Bad?

John 8:31-32

“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”

Identifying Idols



Why Are Idols So Bad?

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

Identifying Idols



Why Are Idols So Bad?

- ▶ Pragmatically/Selfishness:

If we build our lives (identity) on an unsure foundation, we should expect it to come crashing down. The results will be disastrous.

- ▶ God cares about our flourishing. Idols oppose our flourishing.
- ▶ Idols threaten our salvation. Idols oppose God.

Identifying Idols



Who Do You Worship?

Replacing Our Idols

**Jacob Wrestling with God:
The Search for Blessing**

Identifying Idols



Replacing Our Idols

Genesis 32:24-31

“So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When he saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, ‘Let me go, for it is daybreak.’ But Jacob replied, ‘I will not let you go until you bless me.’ The man asked him, ‘What is your name?’ ‘Jacob,’ he answered. Then the man said, ‘Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome.’ Jacob said, ‘Please tell me your name.’ But he replied, ‘Why do you ask my name?’ Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, ‘It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.’ The Sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.” ”



Replacing Our Idols

“Every human being, then, needs blessing. We all need assurance of our unique value from some outside source. The love and admiration of those you most love and admire is above all rewards. We are all looking for this deep admiration, looking for it from our parents, our spouse, our peers.”

-Tim Keller

Identifying Idols



Replacing Our Idols

“Have you heard God’s blessing in your inmost being? Are the words, ‘You are my beloved child, in whom I delight’ an endless source of joy and strength? Have you sensed, through the Holy Spirit, God speaking to you? That blessing-the blessing through the Spirit that is our through Christ-is what Jacob received, and it is the only remedy against idolatry”

-Tim Keller

Identifying Idols



Replacing Idols

Colossians 3:1-5

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”

Identifying Idols



Replacing Idols

Money: Radical Acts of Giving Luke 19:1-10

“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed to a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.”

Identifying Idols



Replacing Idols

Money: Radical Acts of Giving Luke 19:1-10

“All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to the house of a sinner.’

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay him back four times the amount.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.’”

Identifying Idols



Replacing Idols

Money: Radical Acts of Giving Mark 10:17-22

“As Jesus started out on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. ‘Good teacher,’ he asked, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’

‘Why do you call me good?’ Jesus answered, ‘No one is good-except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.’

‘Teacher,’ he declared, ‘all these I have kept since I was a boy.’ Jesus looked at him and loved him, ‘One thing you lack,’ he said, ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, and follow me.’
At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.”



Replacing Idols

Success/Glory/Impact

Philippians 2:5-11

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death-
even death on a cross



Replacing Idols

Success/Glory/Impact

Philippians 2:5-11

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Identifying Idols



Replacing Idols: Practical Steps

- ▶ Spiritual Disciplines as a means to intimacy with God
- ▶ Worship in particular
- ▶ Repentance and Rejoicing a necessity

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Replacing our Idols

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INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

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Test everything, hold on to what is good...

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