

Got Idols ?

Before people come to Christ, they are locked in the world's ways.

1. Prior to conversion to Christ...
 - A. All people live in a state of bondage and spiritual immaturity (3:23 and 4:1), trapped in this world's way of thinking, enslaved to performance-based salvation.
 - B. All people live in a state of ignorance, not knowing God.
2. Both paganism and Judaism had special days of observance..
 - A. The religious person is as lost and enslaved as the [non](#)-religious person.
 - B. Both are trying to be their [own](#) savior and lord, but in different ways.
 - C. Both systems are based on the basic principles of the world: performance-based acceptance with God. We need to save ourselves.
3. Paul fears that his ministry work among them may have been in vain because his goal was their spiritual maturity in Christ.

21st century people still worship idols, gods.

1. The world is very confused about what we need to be saved [from](#).
 - A. The world confuses the problem (sin) with the consequences and symptoms of sin.
 - B. The world thinks we need to be saved from all the consequences that flow from sin, and all the symptoms that point to sin, but the world rarely identifies sin [as sin](#).
 - C. The world seeks to find happiness and worthiness, to feel [happy](#) and [worthy](#).
2. We worship what we think will save us, will fulfill us, will give us meaning, worth, significance, or security, be it...
3. The ultimate source of your meaning and hope is your god, a counterfeit god.
 - A. What you build your life upon and [around](#) is your god.
 - B. What you [sacrifice to](#) in order to get the good as you define it and avoid the unpleasant as you define it... this is your idol.

Christians still slide back into the world's ways and worship false gods.

1. In most cases the thing we allow to take priority over all others is in and of itself a good and even necessary thing, often a God-given thing that has become more important to you than [God](#).
2. You know that a thing (or person) has become a counterfeit god when its demands on you exceed proper boundaries, and you [comply](#). When you need it for your happiness or your worthiness, then it has become an idol, your god.

3. What word would you use to describe your relationship with something or someone to whom you have given priority in your schedule, prominence in your life, influence on your thoughts, attitudes and behaviors, such that you desire and even need the approval or blessing, the happiness or worthiness, that he, she or it provides?

There are many words to describe that kind of relationship to something or someone, but perhaps the best term is "[worship](#)".

4. Our idols trump every other allegiance and value.
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5. What controls you is your ruler, your lord, your god, or your Ruler, Lord, or God.
 - A. What you love, trust in and obey is your god or your God.
 - B. Whose approval do you most desire? That's your god or your God.
 - C. Idolatry is setting your heart on something besides Him, setting your heart on pleasing someone besides Him.

How can I tell if something or someone has become an idol in my life?

1. Do I see a [pattern](#) of disobedience in any area? Look for an idol there.
2. Do I see any relationship or person influencing me [away from](#) what God says in His Word, the Bible?
3. When a relationship is more important to you and more influential on you than God, you have made an idol.
4. My spending patterns may reveal an idol.
Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matt. 6:21
5. What gets me emotionally riled up? Look there. What upsets you, gets you really steamed, or frustrates you? There you may find something that controls you, or directs you [more](#) than God. There you may find an idol set up in your heart.

How do I get the idols out of my life?

1. It may not be possible to totally and finally remove an idol from your heart, but it can be [displaced](#).
You can put the Lord God there and grow to love, trust and obey Him more.
2. Idolatry is more than failure to obey God. It is setting your heart on something besides Him. So love Jesus more, such that following Him is so much more important, that you prefer to do His will more than do what the idol wants.
3. We become like what we worship. So make worshipping God a priority in your schedule. Remember what on earth you are here for: worship, fellowship, discipleship, service and evangelism.
4. Practice the spiritual disciplines, which are forms of worship.
Do this intentionally and often. Replace your idols with the Lord.

Message

Live your freedom from this world's idols.