

Idol Worship

I. Introduction:

- a. (Ex 20:1-6) “And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”

II. The Idol of Money

- a. (1 Tim 6:9-10) “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”
 - i. Earthly riches
 1. Drown men in destruction and perdition
 - a. Bring more temptation
 - b. Puts a snare in our path
 - ii. Love of money
 1. Many put their trust in their money or making money
 2. Spend all their life trying to get richer
 - iii. Pierced themselves through with many sorrows
 1. “If I had money I’d be happy”
 - a. Scriptures teach “More money you have, the increase in sorrows.”
 2. (Eccl 5:10-12) “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity. When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes? The sleep

of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.”

b. Instead of trying to be rich

i. (Matt 19:21-22) “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”

1. Should help those in need

2. We have possessions today

a. Which do we love more?

III. The Idol of acceptance and security

a. (I Samuel 8:5) “And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.”

b. Give us a king

i. Instead of being satisfied with an unseen divine ruler – wanted a fallible man

ii. Idol worship – brought on by insecurity – not able to easily experience God by the 5 senses – Touch, See, Taste, Hear, Smell

1. Because of insecurity – substitute infinite for finite/ incorruptible for corruptible/ Infallible for fallible

2. Built idols – something they could experience with their senses

iii. Some in the Church today do the same as the Israelites

1. Church – Kingdom of God – organization of the church

a. (Matt 16:18-19) “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

i. Keys of the kingdom unlocked the doors to the Church

- ii. Not separate organization but two different descriptive titles to the same organization
 - 1. Church – “called-out”
collective group of Christians
 - 2. Kingdom – government
 - a. Christ as the head of the kingdom
 - iii. Church – organize with earthly headquarters – not ruled by Christ
 - iv. Two uses of the word church
 - 1. Congregation
 - 2. Universal
 - 3. “I will build my Church” – whole church – the saved in aggregate
 - 4. “to the church of God in Corinth” – that local congregation – defined by geographical limitations
 - v. Denominations – properly divine – larger than a congregation/ smaller than the universal church – not Christ church at all
2. Wanting to be like the nations around us
- a. Kingdom of God – Christ church/ Denominations – other nations
 - i. Churches of Christ bring in ‘tricks’ and practices of the Denominations
 - 1. Youth rallies
 - 2. Turning the congregation into a Social center
 - 3. Want to ‘entice’ the lost by using vices instead of lifting up Christ. “If I be lifted up...”
 - b. Work of the church
 - i. Teach sinners the Gospel of Christ
 - ii. Teach converts
 - iii. Benevolent work

1. Certain benevolent work for the Church and for the individual
- c. The church will always be persecuted by those on the outside
 - i. (Matt 5:11-12) “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

IV. The Idol of Feelings

- a. Pietism – Feelings over knowledge of God’s Word
 - i. Substitutes feelings for intellect
 - ii. Heartfelt religion
 1. Old phraseology “Better felt than told”
- b. Trust in their feelings rather than the Word of God
 - i. (Prov 28:26) “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.”
 1. Trust in your feelings – fool
 2. Walk wisely – delivered
 - ii. Heart will deceive you
 1. Homosexual – claims they feel that God made me this way – feel their alright
 2. Many doctrines came from this way of thinking – all with the same “evidence”
 - a. Mormonism – Believe in Pseudo-prophet / continuing revelation since early 1800’s
 - b. Pentecostalism – Believe in Oneness doctrine / continuing revelation since early 1900’s
 - c. Holiness – Believe in Baptism non-essential to salvation – mid 1800’s
 - d. Same evidence of feelings – no evidence of their doctrine or organization from the word of God

3. I know it cause I feel it is not evidence

- iii. Wisdom gives faith – “Faith cometh by hearing...”

V. The Idol of Self

a. Self worship – Self righteous

i. (Luke 18:10-14) “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

1. Think they can't be wrong

ii. (Matt 7:2-5) “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.”

1. Worry about your own soul first

2. (John 21:21-22) “Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me.”

VI. Conclusion

a. “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God.”

i. Who do you worship?