



Message 7: FINDING AND REPLACING OUR IDOLS

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Idolatry is defined most simply as “the act of replacing God.” It is the nature of idolatry to blind us. We become blind to the idols in our lives and in our culture. Paul wrote...

Their thinking became useless. Their foolish minds were filled with darkness. They said they were wise, but they became fools. They traded the glory of God who lives forever for the worship of idols...They traded the truth of God for a lie. They worshiped and served what had been created instead of the God who created those things, who should be praised forever. (Romans 1:21, 22, 25, GW)

In this final message, let's all ask God to help us search our hearts and make sure that we “love him the most.”

IDOLS ARE SERIOUS

Deuteronomy 7:25-26, These idols are disgusting to the LORD your God. Never bring a disgusting idol into your house. If you do, you and the idol will be destroyed. Consider it detestable and disgusting. It must be destroyed.” (GW)

1 John 5:21, *Dear Children, keep yourselves from idols. (NIV)*

Idolatry is the sin that is beneath the sin.

Deuteronomy 6:4, *Hear, O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*"

Idolatry will eventually take away our **freedom**.

1 Corinthians 6:12, *Someone will say, I am allowed to do anything. Yes; but not everything is good for you. I could say that I am allowed to do anything, but I am not going to let anything make me its slave.* (GNT)

IDENTIFYING IDOLS

Look to your **imagination**.

2 Corinthians 10:5, *We take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.* (NIV)

Examine where your **money** is going.

Matthew 6:21, *Where your treasure is, there is your heart also.* (NIV)

Determine how you respond to **unanswered** prayers and frustrated **hopes**.

Jonah 4:1-3, *Jonah was very upset about this, and he became very angry. So he prayed to the LORD... "LORD, take my life. I'd rather be dead than alive."* (GW)

Ask, "Where do I turn for **comfort** and **refuge**?"

John 6:68, *Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, who would we go to? You have the words that give eternal life."* (NCV)

REPLACING IDOLS

Colossians 3:1-5, *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on 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. (NIV)*

Idolatry is not just a failure to **obey** God. It is a setting of the heart on something **besides** God.

Replacing idols is the interlocking of two spiritual chords.

