

Idolatry Outline

Guiding Verse: Exodus 32: 1-14

Guiding question throughout the sharing:

*Is it possible to commit Idolatry even when one has accepted God? Are we committing idolatry without knowing it? If so, what constitutes it and how do we deal with it?

What jumps out immediately at you?

- a) This is Aaron!!!
- b) God's mercy- (God is the same God throughout scripture)- Tie in to "Who is God" session

1. Idolatry in the Old Testament

Guiding Verses :

Psalms 135: 15-18

"The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them!"

Isaiah 2:8

"Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made."

Deuteronomy 7:25

Highlights of the passages:

- 1. Man-made
- 2. Tangible idols
- 3. Impressive material and symbols used to represent God. (God is not content with representations of Him. God wants a direct and real relationship with His children)
What is disturbing about it? Israelites are seeing God's physical manifestation, yet they are able to still commit idolatry. What about us then? "
Conclusions: This shows that the link between God and man is faith". God shows Himself every day to us and He is very much involved in our lives. If people don't believe in Jesus, it's not because He doesn't exist. It's because they refuse to acknowledge Him.

2. Idolatry in the New Testament

Guiding Verses:

Colossians 3:5

"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."

Galatians 4:8-9

"Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather be known to God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more?"

Highlights:

- a) Not tangible anymore

b) Principles and sins

What's more disturbing about it? JESUS ACTUALLY CAME IN THE NEW TESTAMENT and we still commit idolatry.

3. What constitutes idolatry?

Guiding Question: Based on Old and New Testament scripture what then constitutes idolatry?

*We must ask ourselves first, are worshipping something other than God? What defines worship? In essence what is taking the place of God?

Implications on Hobbies, Passions and Identities:

Ask these questions:

- a) Where do I find my identity in and how do I act in accordance to it?- We are children of God first and foremost, if anything takes the place of that, it counts as idolatry.
- b) What is the difference between idolatry and a passion?- Idolatry ends with the act itself and glorifies the actor. Much like worshipping the act of your own hands. A passion does not end with the act itself..it ends with the glorifying of God.

Testimony on Idolatry: Music, Worship and What takes the place of God.

Keeping in mind the broad scope of idolatry, how then can we deal with it: Redirecting it to JESUS