

Dealing With Our Personal Idolatry

Scripture: 1 John 5:21
Philippians 2:8
Romans 6:16

1 John 5:21 (NKJV) Little children, **keep yourselves from idols.** Amen.

Philippians 2:8 (NKJV) And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Romans 6:16 (NKJV) Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one's slaves whom you obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

Introduction

John counsels the churches to "keep yourselves from idols." We would almost automatically say, "I don't worship any idols." But the idols we worship are more subtle than the ones hung on a wall or placed in a grotto.

I. Signals of hidden idols

Romans 6:16 (NKJV) Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, **you are that one's slaves whom you obey**, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

- An attitude, activity, or habit which consistently controls your behavior
- An unwillingness or inability to respond appropriately to a revelation of God's will or purpose for you
- Deviating slightly from scriptural principles to achieve your own goals or purposes
- A humanistic lifestyle

II. Identifying the idols

Exodus 20:3 (NKJV) "You shall have no other gods before Me.

- Unscriptural ethics and morality
Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God..
- Pride

Isaiah 14:14 (NKJV) **I will** ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will** be like the Most High.'

- Lack of transparency
 - Unwillingness to confess wrong
- C. Self will

1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV) For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And **stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.** Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king."

- D. A humanistic lifestyle

Numbers 14:4 (NKJV) So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and **return to Egypt.**"

III. Dealing with the idols

Romans 13:14 (NKJV) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh**, to fulfill its lusts.

Romans 6:13 (NKJV) And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

- Choose to make Jesus your **only** Lord

Philippians 2:10-11 (NKJV) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Seek to know his will
- Set your will to be obedient
- Ask for grace to obey

- Choose to make Jesus your **only** object of worship

Revelation 5:11-13 (NKJV) Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

- Remove self as an object of worship

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- a. Personal agenda
- b. Personal passions and lusts
- c. Personal pride
- d. Lifestyle of disobedience
- 2. Learn who He really is
- 3. Set aside time to worship
- C. Come into His fellowship
 - 1. Spend time in His presence
 - 2. Develop dialog with Him
 - a. Express your hopes, dreams, ambitions to Him
 - b. Listen and wait for Him to give direction
- D. Allow His grace to enable you to obey Him

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1 Samuel 15:23
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Romans 13:14, Romans 6:13, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

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