

Idolatry to Worship

January 8, 2017

I. INTRODUCTION

- “Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ . . . willed the entire life of believers, to be one of repentance.” (Martin Luther)
- “Man’s nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols.” (John Calvin)
- There is hope (1 Cor.10:13-14).

II. HAVE BIBLICAL MOTIVATION

- Our primary motivation for change must be to please God (2 Cor. 5:9).
- God will not give his glory to another or his praise to idols (Isaiah 42:8).
- If our motives are to spend on our pleasures, God will not answer (James 4:3).

III. REPENT

- Repentance includes not only turning from idolatry but turning to worshiping God (1 Thes. 1:9; Eph. 4:28).
- “Our struggle with sin doesn’t start with our behavior. It begins with what we want, what we live for.” (David Powlison)
- Idols never satisfy (Jeremiah 2:13).

IV. TRUST THAT JESUS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

- Jesus satisfies (Psalm 73:25; 90:14; John 4:13-14; 6:35; 10:10).
- Don’t worship the idol of satisfaction. Worship God and you will be satisfied.
- “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” (John Piper)

V. STAY AWAY

- Stay away from anything that tempts you to sin (Matt. 5:29-30).

VI. GET ACCOUNTABILITY

- We all need regular, specific accountability (Heb. 3:13; 10:24; Proverbs 27:17).

KNOW: To move from idolatry to worship there must be not only a turning from sin and the idolatry fueling the sin, but also a turning to serve the living and true God. We must put off the sin and the idolatry driving the sin and put on obedience and worship.

DO: Make pleasing God your primary motivation. Repent of your idols. Trust that Jesus is more than enough. Stay away from anything that tempts you to sin. Get genuine, specific accountability.

Recommended Reading:

Gospel Treason, by Brad Bigney

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

1. What should be our primary motivation for change? (Read 2 Cor. 5:9; 1 Cor. 10:31) Why is our motivation so important? (Read Isaiah 42:8; James 4:3)
2. What is an idol? (Hint: Matthew 6:21) Can something that is good become an idol? When does a good thing become an idol? (Ask everyone to give an example of idolatry in their own life as a Christian.)
3. The entire Christian life is a life of repentance and faith in the gospel. What does this mean, and how would you explain this to someone?
4. What does it mean that to kill the fruit of our sin we must kill the root of our sin? How do we do this? Pick a specific common sin and work as a group on how you can move from idolatry to worship concerning this sin (ex: impatience, gluttony, gossip, anger, etc.).
5. Talk about why the example of a dry drunk or someone who quits smoking but then gains weight is not genuine heart repentance. What is missing? (Hint: “Our struggle with sin doesn’t start with our behavior. It begins with what we want, what we live for.”- David Powlison)
6. How does the biblical truth that Jesus is more than enough help us move from idolatry to worship? (Read Psalm 90:14 and John 4:13-14) How will this truth help you move from your specific idols to worship?
7. What do you need to stay away from that tempts you to sin? Get an accountability partner that will ask you regular specific questions about the who, when, what, how and why of your idols and will pray for you. Read Hebrews 3:13.
8. Seek biblical counseling from LifePoint’s Soul Care Ministry as needed.