

The Worthiness of God

The Idolatry of Man

MAIN IDEA

God hates idolatry because:

1. God is zealous for His glory
2. God desires what is best for His children

Idolatry - Anything that comes before God in our lives

Two areas in our culture that Jesus speaks to directly when dealing with idolatry are:

1. Money: the accumulation of goods or wealth
2. Family

As the Creator of all living things, God has reserved glory for Himself; He comes first. Without God, nothing else matters. He is the foundation and fabric of who we are. His blessings to us should cause us to glorify, praise, and thank Him - not for us to seek those gifts for ultimate satisfaction and contentment.

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him” –John Piper.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

How is idolatry a paradox?

Why do you think we can love others better or hold possessions lightly when we love God first?

Knowing that all gifts come from God, list the things that are blessings in your life. Do these gifts cause you to thank and glorify Him or to seek the gifts?

In what ways do you tolerate the sin of idolatry in the battle for your heart's affection? How do you think that impacts the church at DEC? How do you think it impacts your witness to the awesomeness of God?

Prayerfully consider asking a trusted person if they see an area of idolatry in your life.

Consider taking time each day this week to thank God for who He is and all He has done.

Prayers for this week:

- Confess and repent any area of your life that has become an idol.
- Thank God for a love so great that He pursues us and battles for our hearts to love Him first.
- Thank Jesus and His gospel that sets us free from sin, including idolatry
- Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance as you take steps to glorify God and not His blessings.

REPRODUCE

When was the last time you shared with another person or group about God's blessings to you? Conversely, ask another believer to tell you how God has moved in their life recently.

If you are currently in a battle against idolatry or know someone who is, prayerfully ask to be held accountable or to walk alongside another brother/sister.

If God has faithfully broken an idol in your life, where is there an opportunity for you to share your testimony with another and thereby support and encourage your fellow brother or sister?

KEY VERSES

From the sermon:

- Exodus 20:2-6
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- Matthew 22:34-40
- Ezekiel 16:1-22, 30
- Isaiah 42:8
- Jonah 2:8
- Psalm 16:4
- Acts 17:25
- Matthew 19:16-26
- 1 Timothy 6:9-10
- Matthew 6:24
- Matthew 10:37
- Ephesians 5:25
- James 1:17
- 1 Timothy 4:4
- Ezekiel 14:1-5