

AMERICAN IDOLS - IMPACT SUNDAY

Romans 1:21-25 NIV

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

24Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Idolatry - is described as image worship or divine honor paid to any created object. Paul describes the origin of idolatry in **Romans 1:21-25**

In scripture, idolatry is regarded as of heathen origin, being imported among the Hebrews through contact with heathen nations.

The first allusion to idolatry is in the account of Rachel stealing her father's teraphim (household idols) in **Genesis 31:19**.

The second instance we see is in the Hebrews long residence in Egypt in **Exodus 32:1-10** when the people God had JUST delivered out of the hand of Pharaoh had Aaron make them a golden calf to worship while Moses was in the presence of God at Mount Sinai.

In order for our worship to be pure and holy we must first **Discern , expose and destroy** the idols in our lives.

Paul in his teachings always took on the idols of the culture which compelled the people to experience true transformation which in turn affected the culture.

One of the issues we see in the church today is we have wonderful people who come to know Jesus as savior and Lord but they never get rid of the idols in their hearts and lives.

We have got to expose the idols in our lives so that we can change our family, our culture and our economy like Paul experienced in the book of Acts.

Acts 17:16.KJV Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.

I want to do a class exercise:

I want everyone to take 30 seconds to DISCERN what in their lives have they idolized.

Write them down (EXPOSE THEM).

Cars, houses, possessions, family etc.

Now of the things you wrote down how many of them are physical things?



Did we consider of the the non physical things we often idolize as well like: power, approval, fame, success, pleasure....

This type of idolatry is considered SPIRITUAL ADULTERY.

WHEN WE LOOK TO A CREATED THING TO GIVE US ONLY WHAT GOD CAN GIVE US THAT IS IDOLATRY!

2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. I promised you as a pure bride to one husband - Christ.

SOMEBODY SHOUT UNRIGHTEOUS DESIRE!

Did you know you can have righteous intent with wrong execution. We can have all the right declarations while still worshipping idols.

Many christians do this every day. They declare “Jesus is Lord,” but they don’t follow Jesus. Just as Israel said they worshipped Yahweh, but followed their desires instead of God’s declared will.

Many christians pick and choose which passages of scripture they want to follow, and then ignore the rest that CHALLENGE them!

That is creating a bootleg Jesus-an idol. It is not worshipping Jesus in truth.

As I close saints, the way we destroy the idols in our lives after we Acknowledge and Expose them is by REPENTENCE!

Acts 20:21 I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike-the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.

Repentance puts you back in your rightful position in Christ.

The altar is open