

Idols

When Good Things Become Ultimate Things

Pastor Carl Toti - September 16-17, 2017

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

1 John 5:21 (NLT) Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

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.

WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

Idolatry is the elevation of a preliminary concern to ultimacy. Something essentially finite is given infinite significance. The conflict between the finite and the infinite leads to a conflict of ultimates.

Paul Tillich's preferred definition of idolatry is found in Systematic Theology (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951).

Idolatry: trusting people, possessions or positions to do for me what only God can do. —Bill Gothard

1. WHAT DO WE _____ WITH MOST?

Romans 1:25 (NKJV) who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

2. WHAT DO WE _____ MOST?

Whatever a man seeks, honors, or exalts more than God, this is the god of his idolatry. —William Bernard Ullanthorne (1806-1889)

1 Samuel 15:23 (NLT) Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

3. WHAT DO WE _____ MOST?

1 Corinthians 10:14 (NKJV) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Answers:

- 1. Identify**
- 2. Love**
- 3. Trust**