

Understanding Idolatry Pt 2: Why we're so prone to Idolatry

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 5th

2 Cor 2:11 *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."*

Satan's devices include using Our Limited Perspective → Complaining; Our Lustful Pleasures → Compulsions and Our Propensity for Perversion → Corruption.

His goal is our ultimate rebellion. 1 Sam 15:23 (see Romans 1:16-32 for this process.)

When we Depart from God (rebel) we drift toward Satan and our ultimate Destruction. Jn10:10a

Review Part 1: Idolatry Defined:

OT: elil (*Lev 19:4*) good for nothing. Hebel (*Jer. 8:19*) from habal: to lead astray. Gillulim (*Lev. 26:30*) to wallow and/or trust. Terapim (*1 Sam. 15:23*) coming from rapa: to weaken and consume)

NT: 1 Cor 10:7 *"Neither be ye idolaters"* Eidōlat' rēs: to serve/worship a form, (heathen god)

20 ... *the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."* Idolatry opens us up to demonic influence.

English: "Any thing which usurps the place of God in the hearts of his rational creatures."

Direction: Why are we so prone to Idolatry?

1. Because we Delight in it! (or at least in what "it" promises.)

A. We're "wired" for desire. God made us with desires:

- 1) Physical: Food, air, pleasure, warmth
- 2) Emotional/ relational: Approval, appreciation (Gen. 2:18)
- 3) Spiritual: Intimacy, purpose (Ecc. 3:11)

B. Sin corrupts (rewires) those desires.

1) Sin offers to fulfil those desires:

- a) In the wrong way Heb. 13:4; Pr. 5:18-23 "in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."
Sin: hamartano: miss the mark & forfeit the prize. (see James 1:13-17)
- b) At the wrong time. Mt 4:1-10; Micah 2:10

C. Idolatry (or the powers behind it) promises to meet our needs without God!

1) The Relationship between lust and idolatry. 1 Cor. 10:6 *"Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust (epithumeo) after evil things, 7 Neither be ye idolaters"*

2) Idolatry "promises" to Satisfy our desires/lust for:

- a) Pleasure (Ishar/Astoreth Num. 25)
- b) Provision (Baal/Ishar Jer. 44:15-27)
- c) Protection (Ahaz & Assyrian gods 2 Kings 16)
- d) Direction (Ahaziah to Baalzebub 2 Kings 1)
- e) Purpose (Jezebel 1 Kings 16:31-33) (Simon the Sorcerer Acts 8:9-11)

1 Cor 10:7-8 *"Neither be ye idolaters..., 8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand."* Because of Balaam's counsel! Nu 22-25; 2 Pt 2:12-15; Jude 11)

Nu 25:1-3 *"...the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab... And joined himself unto Baalpeor:"*

2. Because we're Deceived by it.

A. By its Temptation

- 1) Satan uses our “desires” (thumos) as bait (the promise to satisfy them) to superimpose his agenda (the hook) onto/ over) our hearts (epi) in order to corrupt them! (Jms 1:13-16)
 - a) The “bait” is made to “look” so good that we “overlook” the hook hidden inside! (1Tim 2:26)
- 2) This is how Sin was introduced. Gen. 3:1-8
- 3) This process is repeated regularly Ro 7:9-12 11 *“sin taking occasion...deceived me, and by it slew me.”*
(Ro 5:12; 6:23)

B. By its timing. Remember “epi” means to superimpose “in time, place, order, priority!”

- 1) Satan tempts us to be our own God by providing for our own “needs” in our own time!
2 Tim. 4:10 *“Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present (nyn: now) world...”*
Compare 2 Tim. 2:4, 22-26; Phil. 3:18,19; 1 Pt 2:11 *“fleshly lusts which war against the soul”*

3. Because we're Diseased by it.

A. Sin, by its nature, is infectious! (1 Jn 5:19-21) *“we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. (poneros: diseased) And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, ...Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”*

- 1) Sin works and spreads within us. Ro 7:13-24 21 *“I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me...24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”*
- 2) Sin works against us (and God!) Gal 5:17 *“For the flesh lusteth (epithumeo) against the Spirit,”*
- 3) Sin works through us! Notice Idolatry's family tree in Gal. 5:19-21
“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication (porneia), uncleanness (impurity), lasciviousness, (wantonness) 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, (pharmakei'a) hatred, variance, (quarrels) emulations, (jealousy) wrath (passion), strife (contention), seditions (division), heresies (disunion), 21 Envyings (spite, ill will), murders, drunkenness, revellings (carousal, letting loose), and such like.”

Conclusion: We're so prone to idolatry because:

We delight in it; We're Deceived by it; And we're Diseased by it.

**This disease is terminal! Ex. 32:7 *“thy people, have corrupted themselves”*
(shāḥat': wasted, ruined, destroyed)**

2 Peter 2:19 *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”* (see Pr. 5:22,23)

Life is short (James 4:14); Death is Sure (Heb. 9:27)

Sin is the Cause (Ro. 5:12);

Christ is the Cure. (Ro. 6:23; Jn 5:40; Mt 11:28-30)

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart

: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”