
SUNDAY WORSHIP GUIDE

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-22

Gospel Thinking, Gospel Living: Warning Against Idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

“We may not physically kneel before the statue of Aphrodite, but many young women today are driven into depression and eating disorders by an obsessive concern over their body image. We may not actually burn incense to Artemis, but when money and career are raised to cosmic proportions, we perform a kind of child sacrifice, neglecting family and community to achieve a higher place in business and gain more wealth and prestige” – Tim Keller

One Thing:

- We combat the idols in our lives as we must look to the faithfulness of God to deliver us

Gospel Thinking:

1. Warning from history – vv. 1-13

- A. Do not fool yourself into thinking that you are immune to the temptation of turning to idols

“Idols are anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.” – Tim Keller

- B. When you are tempted, turn to God for help

2. Warning against divided loyalty – vv. 14-22

“Most people honored gods whom they thought were useful. Some believed that there was ‘safety in numbers’ and worshipped a smorgasbord of deities. The more gods that were honored, the better their chance of success in life.” – David Garland

“It is a loving jealousy, because we were made to find our greatest joy when he is our greatest treasure. He is jealous that He be honored by being treasured, and He is jealous that we be satisfied by treasuring Him. So He is jealous in a loving way and He is jealous in a righteous way. And if we find God to be so boring or so negligible that we must put other things in His place that really satisfy us more than He does, then we not only offend Him, but we also destroy ourselves. Those two things make God angry. He doesn’t want to be offended and He doesn’t want us to destroy ourselves. Idolatry contradicts both of those things and so His wrath comes upon the idolater.” – John Piper

Gospel Living:

1. How can we identify the idols in our lives?

- We need to sit under the authority of God’s word and be guided by the Holy Spirit of God
- We can ask ourselves some basic questions
 - a. What am I most afraid of?
 - b. What do I long for most passionately?
 - c. What angers you most?
 - d. Where do I run for comfort?
 - e. What makes me the happiest?
 - f. What has caused me to be angry with God?
 - g. What do I want to have more than anything else?
 - h. What do I sacrifice the most for in my life?
 - i. Whose approval am I seeking?

- j. What do I want to control/master?
- k. What comfort do I treasure the most?

“We can locate idols looking at our most unyielding emotions. What makes us uncontrollably angry, anxious, or despondent? What racks us with a guilt we can’t shake? Idols control us, since we feel we must have them or life is meaningless.” – Tim Keller

2. **What idols might God be at work in exposing and uprooting from our lives during this specific season?**