

Idolatry

in Many Forms

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1 The central sin of the world is some form of *idolatry*—loving *something, someone, or some interest* more than loving God.

2 When idolatry is removed from our heart other *sins* go with it since *all* sins are just the *fruits* of idolatry.

3 Over 3,500 years ago, God gave Ten Commandments to the Israelites when they were camped at the base of Mount Sinai.

4 AV Exodus 19:3 “*Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel.*”

5 God reminds the Israelites what He did for them—how He **4** bore them “*on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.*”

6 *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.*”

7 The Lord God came down on the mountain with fire, thundering, lightning, smoke, and an earthquake! He announces His *rules* called *Commandments*—these are His *standard* of conduct for our life.

8 Even though we are under grace, the moral law is still needed so we can recognize sin and identify wrong desires or any misplaced affection.

9 AV Galatians 3:24 “*The law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*”

10 The apostle explained—AV Romans 3:31 “*Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.*”

11 Jesus Himself explained AV Matthew 5:17 “*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*”

12 The Law does not make us righteous before God but reveals attitudes and idols in our heart.

13 *Commandment #1* is the *character* of God—AV Exodus 20:3 “*Thou shalt have no other gods [idols] before me.*”

14 God is *the LORD Almighty*—He is personally involved in our life—*I brought you out of Egypt.*

15 God means *eternal* in Hebrew—He is the *giver* and *sustainer* of life; the eternal **I AM**—who evermore *will be*; who always *was*; and who *is now*.

16 Each generation of humans appear and disappear—but God stands beyond the passing of time.

17 Being the eternal **I AM**—He never ceases to live and must be the one central object of our worship.

18 Our love and affection must not be divided between God and anything else.

19 *Commandment #1* requires that our *love for God* be *stronger* than our *love for all else*. We are not to have any kind of substitute or idol or interest in place of Him.

20 God does not permit rivals—*Commandment #1* warns of any form of idolatry. To substitute a person, some power or plan in place of God is idolatry.

21 For the world, the primary idol is money; or possessions; entertainment; six-figure job, and many other forms of adoration.

22 Some people actually worship the sun and stars; or make lifeless and inanimate idols of wood, stone, or metal. The Greeks had 30,000 false gods—and fearing lest they miss one, they erected a statue to *the unknown god*.

23 Idols for the world can of chrome, steel, and glass—automobiles, houses, valuable antiques, or huge flat screens.

24 The world today is steeped in idolatry—but a *respectable* form instead of a *heathen* idol it is just a *polished version* of the sin.

25 Idolatry is an obsession or a preoccupation with material things. It is not so much the *having* as being *too involved* with *things* that distract us from spiritual things.

26 The coming holiday shopping spree just reveals how people allow the *love of things* to replace the *love of God*.

27 Increased retail sales are always in November and December. Idolatry today centers around materialism and the accumulation of many things.

28 No one worships a gold calf as Israel, but millions worship gold, jewels, precious metals, luxury cars, and money.

29 When people think that money can buy anything desired, they lose a sense of gratitude and dependence on God.

30 It is why Jesus said AV Matthew 6:24 “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other;*”

31 And AV Matthew 6:19 “*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth.*”

32 And AV Acts 20:35 “*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*”

33 Jesus knows that the human heart will make an idol out of anything—there is always the tendency to *make* something that is *less* than God to be *more* than Him.

34 Anything in any form can become an idol in our heart. We must always be alert because in the last days **AV 2 Timothy 3:4**, people will become *“highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”*

35 Any craving for anything can lead to idolatry. Have we said: *That’s one thing I can’t live without*—not realizing it has already become an idol. Some people idolize sports figures or entertainment personalities.

36 The Lord said **AV Exodus 20:3** *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me;”*

37 And **NIV Ezekiel 6:9** *“how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols.”*

38 Not many listened *then*—and even less *today* but leaving a position of trust on God and placing that trust on something else is idolatry—it is being unfaithful to God.

39 The world trusts some drug for healing; some policy for protection; or some investment for money—but a believer’s healing, protection, and financial needs come from God through faith in His Word.

40 Jesus made the sacrifice *for us* so that we would be *free* from idolatry *in us*.

41 **NIV 1 Peter 1:21** *“Through [Jesus] you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.”*

42 The Blood of Christ paid the *cost* for our sins so that every *prayer* offered in faith on that *sacrifice* can be answered—we are to claim that answer in faith.

43 The Blood is the *price* God requires. When we put our trust in anything *other* than the Blood of Christ, it is *spiritual adultery*.

44 The world will not *trust* God in faith for anything—but **WEY Romans 14:23** *“All conduct not based on faith is sinful.”*

45 The sin nature does not *ask* God for anything since it wants to *see* before it *believes*. **Matthew 12:39** *“An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign.”*

46 God said of Israel **NIV Hosea 1:2** *“The land is guilty of the vilest adultery in departing from the LORD.”*

47 Moses was warned *not* to have close fellowship with unbelievers, and to *smash* any idol the people were trusting on.

48 **AV Exodus 34:14** *“Thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”*

49 Many people are *discontented* with their life or with what God has provided them, and they *long* for things the world says they *should* have. Online commercials are a major factor in causing dissatisfaction.

50 When the Holy Spirit reveals any *false* place of trust or any love for something other than God, we should not be *stubborn* but *repentant* before God.

51 It took forty years of *testing* and *teaching* before Israel finally knew that their trust *had* to be on God alone—it would *not* have taken *forty* years had they not been stubborn.

52 Israel continually turned from God—**AV Hebrews 3:11** *“So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.”*

53 **12** *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.”* And *“all conduct not based on faith is sinful”* **Romans 14:23** **WEY**.

54 God is doing everything possible to save us, but we have to *believe* Him and *trust* Him, without any idols or substitutes.

55 The world places their faith in drugs; an investment plan; a security system; or a firearm. It is Satan’s way to *deceive* people. The world

puts more confidence in something it *can see* than in God whom it *cannot see*.

56 Heaven depends on transferring our trust on *seen things* to the *unseen God* of the universe.

57 In Bible times they trusted two calves; a gold statue; or a sacred bull—but today, idols are: medical treatments; insurance policies; legal action, or anything that can be *seen* and *signed* and trusted.

58 Jesus wrote to the Sardis church **AV Revelation 3:2** *“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”*

59 The world makes no attempt to trust God for anything, but the believer is to **AV 2 Peter 3:14** *“be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless”*—eliminate idols.

60 Even if we are persecuted for our faith, this **Revelation 14:12** **NIV** *“Calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God’s commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.”*

61 Instead of complaining of problems we are to be *rejoicing* through trials—because...

62 **WEY 1 Peter 1:7** *“The testing of your faith—being more precious than that of gold, which perishes and yet is proved by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the re-appearing of Jesus Christ.”*

63 Confident of *eternal life* by eliminating idols in *this* life!

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www.fcgchurch.org

*Receive free Tracts email:
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

Or write to: PO Box 24283
Philadelphia, PA 19120

#3258 25 1012A