

What Is Idolatry?

Exodus 32:1-6; Acts 7:39-42

Idolatry Is a Heart Issue

- “Our ancestors were unwilling to obey him. Instead, they pushed him aside, and in their hearts turned back to Egypt.” (Acts 7:39)
- **When we don’t live by the Greatest Commandment to love the Lord God with all of our heart, we allow our heart to be contaminated with the desires of the flesh.**
- **Everyone is worshipping something(s); the primary question you have to answer is who or what.**

Failing To Trust In God’s Timing and Plans Leads Us Into Idolatry

- “When the people saw that Moses delayed in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make gods for us who will go before us because this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’” (Exodus 32:1)
- **If we do not guard our heart and maintain our trust in the Lord, our impatience with God can result in disastrous decisions rooted in idolatry.**

Idolatry Will Cause Us To Forget Who the Lord Is and What He Has Done

- “Aaron replied to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me.’ 3 So all the people took off the gold rings that were on their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took the gold from them, fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made it into an image of a calf. Then they said, ‘Israel, these are your gods, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’” (Exodus 32:2-4)
- **One of the primary keys to overcoming idolatry is remembering who the Lord is and what He has done for you.**
- “At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped the cast metal image. 20 They exchanged their glory for the image of a grass-eating ox. 21 They forgot God their Savior, who did great things in Egypt.” (Psalm 106:19-21)
- **Being rooted in the Scriptures, fellowship with other Christians, and service to the Lord helps us to remember the Lord’s faithfulness, deliverance, and blessings.**

Idolatry Will Lead Us To Misplaced and Improper Worship

- “When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of it and made an announcement: ‘There will be a festival to the Lord tomorrow.’ 6 Early the next morning they arose, offered burnt offerings, and presented fellowship offerings. The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to party.” (Exodus 32:5-6)
- **Too many people are comfortable going along with what may seem acceptable, or even popular, while completely missing the essence of true worship that only belongs to the Lord.**
- **“We must remember that worship is about glorifying God, not gratifying self.” – Dr. Tony Merida**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- According to Exodus 32:1, what caused the people to ask Aaron to make gods for them?
- What steps did Aaron and the people take to create and worship the golden calf (vv. 2–6)?
- According to Acts 7:39, what was happening in the hearts of the people even before they made the idol?

Understanding

- The sermon describes idolatry as giving ultimate allegiance to something other than God. What are some modern-day idols people commonly struggle with today?
- Why do you think idolatry is ultimately a heart issue and not just a behavior issue?
- How can impatience with God’s timing lead people into unhealthy decisions or misplaced trust?
- What are some signs that a person may be trusting something or someone more than they are trusting God?
- The Israelites quickly forgot what God had done for them in Egypt. Why is remembering God’s faithfulness important in overcoming idolatry?
- What spiritual practices help keep your heart focused on God instead of drifting toward lesser things?
- What is one area of your life where you need to surrender control, refocus your worship, or renew your trust in God this week?

Loving Outward:

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?