

HAVE I MADE THAT PERSON AN IDOL?

Primary Scripture - Psalm 146:3

THE IDOLATRY OF A PERSON IS EVIDENT WHEN YOU PROMOTE THE PERSON MORE THAN THE LORD

- *“The Lord said: These people approach Me with their speeches to honor Me with lip-service, yet their hearts are far from Me.”* (Isaiah 29:13)
- **When we begin to worship the gift rather than the Giver of the gift we have given in to the idolatry of that person.**
- **When we shower ANY person with more affirmation and praise than we give to the Lord, we have given into person idolatry.**

THE IDOLATRY OF A PERSON IS EVIDENT WHEN YOU MAKE EXCUSES FOR OR MINIMIZE THAT PERSON’S SIN

- *“For if we deliberately go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire about to consume the adversaries.”* (Hebrews 10:26-27)
- **One of the most obvious ways to spot the idolatry of a person is when someone speaks of that person’s sin as “no big deal” or says it isn’t sin at all.**
- *“Don’t be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, 8 because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.”* (Galatians 6:7-8)
- **Too many people are happy calling out the sins of those they don’t like, while ignoring or downplaying the sin of their “idols.”**

THE IDOLATRY OF A PERSON IS EVIDENT WHEN YOU ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH WHAT THAT PERSON THINKS OF YOU THAN HOW THE LORD SEES YOU

- *“For am I now trying to persuade people, or God? Or am I striving to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.”* (Galatians 1:10)
- **It is destructive to live seeking the approval of others at the cost of your relationship with the Lord.**

THE IDOLATRY OF A PERSON IS EVIDENT WHEN YOU LOOK TO THEM AS THE SOURCE FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS (Emotional, Spiritual, Physical, Self-Esteem, etc.)

- *“Do not trust in nobles, in a son of man, who cannot save.”* (Psalm 146:3)
- **The idolization of others has kept countless people from experiencing the blessing and provision of the Lord in their lives.**
- *“This is what the Lord says: Cursed is the person who trusts in mankind. He makes human flesh his strength, and his heart turns from the Lord.”* (Jeremiah 17:5)
- **Trusting the Lord for all your needs is the key to overcoming idolatry.**

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION

Observation:

- According to Psalm 146:3, what warning does the psalmist give concerning trusting people?
- According to Galatians 1:10, whose approval should be the primary concern of a follower of Christ?
- What does Jeremiah 17:5 say happens when a person places their trust in human strength rather than in the Lord?

Understanding

- Why do you think people are naturally drawn to elevate certain individuals (pastors, celebrities, athletes, politicians, influencers, or even family members) to an unhealthy level of admiration?
- How can we honor and appreciate people without idolizing them?
- Why is it often easier to recognize the sins of people we dislike than the sins of people we admire?
- Have you ever found yourself defending, excusing, or overlooking someone's behavior because of your loyalty, admiration, or emotional attachment to them? What does that reveal?
- In what ways does the desire for approval from others compete with our desire to please God?
- Are there specific people whose opinions carry too much weight in your life? How can you tell when someone's approval has become more important than God's approval?
- The sermon noted that person-idolatry often occurs when we look to someone else as the source of our emotional, spiritual, or personal fulfillment. What are some signs that we may be expecting another person to provide what only God can provide?
- How does placing unrealistic expectations on others affect our relationships? How does it affect our relationship with God?

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?