

sermon discussion

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MAIN POINTS & KEY SCRIPTURES

Right relationships are born from an intimate relationship with God.

Exodus 20:4-6

Idols make us forget we are to be YHWH's "idol".

- Genesis 1:27
- Exodus 20:4
- Exodus 25:18

Right relationships are born from an intimate relationship with God.

Idolatry destroys our relationships with politics.

- Matthew 22:21
- 2 Corinthians 5:20

Idolatry destroys our relationships in families.

- Exodus 20:5

Solution: Make YHWH your family God (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

Idolatry destroys personal relationships.

Solution: Have Jesus as your personal God.

- 1 John 4:10

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Timothy Keller in the book *Counterfeit Gods* wrote, *An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, "If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure."* What are some idols in our lives or in our culture?
2. The ancient world had three kinds of gods or idols that they worshipped: national, personal, and family. Which of these is most prevalent in our culture?
 - a. *National idols were god(s) of their nation and venerated on national/political days, personal idols were used to gain something or because they liked their religious use (sexuality, drunkenness, power, etc.), and family idols were passed down as guardians.*
3. **Read Matthew 15:3-9.** Why do you think the Jewish leaders were so insistent on keeping their traditions? What are some traditions we cling to?
4. **Read Isaiah 42:5-9.** What are some of the reasons God will not yield His glory to an idol?
5. **Read Exodus 32:1-4.** What are some observations you have on them making an idol so soon after being set free and receiving the 10 Commandments? How might this affect how you assess yourself and your relationship with God?
6. Paul writes in Ephesians 5-6 about how Christian families should relate to one another, such as husbands are to love their wives and fathers are not to provoke their children to anger. Sadly, many Christian marriages struggle because we make idols of our jobs, power/control, money and possessions, etc. How would you know if Yahweh was the one and only God in your

home, or if idols were pulling you away from Him?

7. **Read Exodus 20:4-6.** God said he would visit the sins of disobedient parents onto future generations, and he would pour out his love and favor on future generations where the parents were faithful to Him. What would you love to pass on, and what are you striving to fight and avoid passing on, to future generations?

GOING FURTHER

MEMORIZE: *"I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols."* **Isaiah 42:8 NIV**

READ: *Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller