

Desiring God

by Eddie Broussard

Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Our Deepest Desires:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| To be loved | To love |
| To be important to someone special (Value) | Acceptance |
| To be understood | Peace-Shalom- Wholeness |
| To be desired | Pleasure |
| To be respected | |

I. Understanding Idols

1. Definition:

“an object of extreme devotion; a false conception; a form or appearance visible but without substance”

2. Idols in Scripture and Life

Psa. 115:3-8 *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him. But their idols are silver and gold, made by the hands of men. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but they cannot see; they have ears, but cannot hear, noses, but they cannot smell; they have hands, but cannot feel, feet, but they cannot walk; nor can they utter a sound with their throats. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.*

Rom. 1:23-25

v.23 They ... exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

v. 25 ... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator.

• Idols: To what do I give my:

- **Allegiance (Loyalty): Exo. 20:2-4**
- **Dependence: Jer. 2:13** *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*
- **Passion (Desire): 63:1-3**
- **Worship -Isa. 42:8** *“I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.*

II. The Power of Idols

2. How do Idols gain that Power in our lives?

We give it to them!

Ezek. 14:1-8¹

1 Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me.

2 Then the word of the LORD came to me: **3** “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all? **4** Therefore speak to them and tell them, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and

puts a wicked stumbling block before his face and then goes to a prophet, I the LORD will answer him myself in keeping with his great idolatry.

5 I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.'

6 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!'

Rom. 6:13 *Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.*

• Summary:

- Allegiance (Loyalty)
- Dependence (Trust)
- Passion (Desire)
- Worship (Serve)
- Identity-(the idol defines who **I am**)

3. Major Idols of Our Day

- Money (Wealth)
- Sex
- Romantic Love
- Power
- Consumerism
- Science, Technology
- People

III. Conclusion

Breaking the Power of Idols:

1. **Truth:** Jn. 8:32

2. **Light:**

1 Jn. 1:6-7 *If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

3. **Cross**

4. **Companionship:** Eccl. 4:9-10

Eccl. 4:9 *Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*

5. **Replacement**

Eph. 4:22-24 ... *with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

6. **Discernment:**

Enjoy, with a clear conscience (Spirit of Truth: Jn. 16:12-13

- Deal with false guilt – I am not guilty of known sin
- Deal with true guilt- I am guilty of known sin
- Worship God as you enjoy it
- Give thanks to God as you enjoy it
- Discern when something is giving me something I should be getting from God alone