

Sermon: The Common Root of Humanity

Romans 1:18-24

¹⁸ But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. ¹⁹ They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

²¹ Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen

Line between good and evil runs down the middle of every human heart!

Within every human heart lies the truth of the knowledge of a creator God, to whom we owe our very existence; AND, all of us by nature have suppressed that truth thus provoking the wrath of God!

Suppressing the TRUTH we become idolaters!

22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

“If you love anything more than God, if you rest your security in anything more than the providence and wisdom and sovereignty of God, if your imagination is captured by anything more than the greatness of God, if your value is rooted in anything more than the grace and love of God....you are looking to a created thing to give you what only God can possibly give you.

Therefore, you have set up an idol!” – Keller

Psalm 135:15 - 18

The idols of the nations are merely things of silver and gold,
shaped by human hands.

They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see.

They have ears but cannot hear, and mouths but cannot breathe.

And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them.

“Anxiety is idolatry mapped onto the future. Anxiety becomes pathologically intensified to the degree that I have idolized finite things. Suppose my highest value, my functional meaning in life, is politics, either the Democratic Party or the

Republican Party. Then when my party experiences a great defeat, I don't experience just glum disappointment, but I'm shaken to the depths. I want to leave the country, and I'm too furious to speak to anyone who voted for the other side.

Guilt is idolatry mapped on the past. Guilt becomes pathologically intensified to the degree that I have idolized finite things. Suppose I value a happy family. Therefore, my performance as a parent is valuable above everything else. Then if my daughter goes wrong or has great problems, I am not just sorrowful and grieved, I am stricken with neurotic guilt. I cannot forgive myself. I hate myself. I may become suicidal.

Lastly, ***anger and bitterness is idolatry mapped onto the present.*** Anger becomes pathologically intensified when someone or something stands between me and something that is my ultimate value. Suppose my career is the measure of my worth as a person, and someone at work is harming it. I won't just be angry. I will be so deeply bitter and capable of doing things to this person that I may blow up my career more thoroughly than that person ever could."

Idolatry is closer than we think!

REMEDY?

.....who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.