

GPS: God and Idols

July 1, 2018

I. Review: 2 Questions In Acts 15

1. *How is a person saved?*
2. *How does a saved person live?*

A. A person is saved by faith alone in Jesus Christ.

Acts 15:28-29 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell.

B. GPS - A Compass for navigating the trending topics of our challenging times.

- *G - God - Does this glorify God?*
- *P - People - Does this encourage or discourage others?*
- *S - Self - Does this cause me to be closer to or further away from God?*

C. God and Idols

Exodus 20:3-6 “You shall have no other gods before me. “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

1 John 5:21 Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

- An idol is anything that takes the place of God in your life.

1 Corinthians 10:6-10 Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

II. Three Idols To Avoid

1. *The "Plan B" Idol*

1 Corinthians 10:7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry."

Exodus 32:1 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

A. Too much of a good thing can become a bad thing.

- We worship the "Plan B" idol at the altar of the things we rely on.

B. Idolatry in our lives

1. When our gifts become more important than the Giver, that is idolatry.
2. If we treasure our treasures so much that we fail to honor God with them, that is idolatry.
3. When we are doing what we do without the one who does it through us, that is idolatry.
4. Family
 - If you build your faith on your family, your family will have a weak foundation.
 - But if you build your family on your faith, your family will have a strong foundation.
5. Politics/Government
 - Do you think theologically about your politics? Or do you think politically about your theology?
 - The laws of man can never override the laws of God.

C. Is this putting something before God?

2. *The "Rest Of The World" Idol*

1 Corinthians 10:8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.

Numbers 25:1-3 While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods.

The people ate the sacrificial meal and bowed down before these gods. So Israel yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor. And the Lord's anger burned against them.

- We worship the "Rest Of The World" idol at the altar of media and culture.

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

A. Lust is any unhealthy desire.

Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

- Just because the rest of the world is doing it does not mean that I should be.

B. Questions to Ask before you Act

1. Does this line up with God's Word?
2. Is this pleasing to God?
3. Am I obeying God?
4. Is this good for me?

C. Just because something is not bad does not mean that it is good.

- Sometimes I'm the weaker brother.

3. *The "What About Me" Idol*

1 Corinthians 10:9-10 We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

Numbers 21:4-5 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

- We worship the "What About Me" idol at the altar of attention and opinion.

A. When I am full of myself, I leave no room to be full of God.

B. Things to consider before you click.

1. Is this glorifying to God?

2. Does this encourage others?
3. Is this good for me?

C. What is your parenting online strategy?

1. Be intentional.
2. Be present.
3. Be the parent.

D. Is there anyone in your world with an online whistle that can call a foul?

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!