

APPLYING TRUTH TO LIFE

*Grace Gatherings*

THEOLOGY NIGHTS | JULY 24, 2024

GRACE CHURCH  
WILLIAMSBURG

# Guarding Yourself from Idols

## I. Identify Idols

**Definition:** An idol is anything or anyone that captures your heart (your mind and desires/affections) **more than** God.

# Guarding Yourself from Idols

1 Corinthians 10:1-7, 13-14; 1 John 5:21 (Proverbs 4:20-23)

1. Idols are God-**substitutes** / God-**replacements**.
2. Idols help us get what we want most in the moment regardless of **consequences**—idols are very demanding and show no mercy.
3. Idols come in many **forms**—hobbies, people, ideas, things, plans, goals, etc.
4. Idols are anything (or anyone) that you allow to control your heart (thinking and wanting) so that you believe and desire what is **false**.
5. Idols are **counterfeits** that **deceive** you and **draw** you away from the truth so that you are more devoted to the idol in that moment and situation of your life than you are to pleasing Christ in all things.
6. Idols are **lies** kept alive by **lies**.

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## Idol **playground**:

- Philippians 3:18-19
- Your **heart**—particularly your **mind** by tempting you with lies, and your **desires** by tempting you with lusts (illicit/inordinate desires).
- **Inordinate** desires are immoderate; they exceed normal limits, or they go beyond what is proper, helpful, and healthy.
- They are **misplaced** and **excessive**. This is when a good desire becomes a bad one, because it has become a **ruling** desire in your heart in that moment.

# Guarding Yourself from Idols

How do I know when a desire or thought has led me into idol worship, into taking **refuge** and **satisfaction** in the idol instead of the Lord Jesus?

- When you are willing to sin to get it or to sin if you don't get it. When you sin, something or someone other than Christ is ruling your heart.

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## II. Repent of Idol Worship

- Put off; lay aside
- Ephesians 4:17-22
- Colossians 3:1-4, 8

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## III. Replace with True Worship

- Put on—be renewed in the spirit of your **mind**
- Ephesians 4:23-24
- Colossians 3:12, 14
- Romans 12:1-2

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## IV. The Vital Role of God's Wisdom

- James 3:13-18
- God has given us His Truth to help us make sense of life for what life really is under God's wisdom and control. We need to live in God's wisdom, so that we learn to fear the Lord and not fear life.
- The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to **renew** us in the **mind of Christ**—in godly thinking about life.
- We are **becoming** in **habit** who we **are** in **heart**; we are growing up into Christ.
- We are God's new spiritual **children** applying God's spiritual **wisdom** to the matters of life as we learn to love, honor, and please God in the **good works** of our lives which He prepared beforehand.

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Remember the vital relationship between **God's Word** and personal holiness as we see it in the **four steps of personal change** outlined in **2 Timothy 3:16**:

1. **Teaching** – the work of God's Word as heavenly wisdom to make us **heavenly-minded**; the comprehensive, sufficient **content** of the Bible.
2. **Reproof** – the work of God's Word in us to **expose** falsehood, sin, wrong thinking, disobedience, etc., **rightly and accurately**. What **not** to do!
3. **Correction** – the work of God's Word to make **positive provision** for those who accept Scripture's negative reproof. What **to** do!
4. **Training** – the work of God's Word to **instruct and build us up** in a spiritually disciplined life of righteousness—godly thinking/living.

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And notice the basis, or the only **profitable source**, of this process of change:

***“All Scripture...”*** = God’s truth!

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