

TALKING POINTS

STARTING OVER - SURRENDER

LEANING IN

Sometimes, we we're in the barren place, when we find ourselves stripped away of all we love and desire in our lives, we have to realize God is in the center of it.

We often don't *want* to see God in the center of our lives because we build our lives around something which is a "god" in and of itself. Our "idols".

Idolatry is anything in our life which we have made more important than God. It can be things, people, memories, money, even a lifestyle, a career, our rights, hobbies, work, even comfort. The important thing to know about idolatry is - it is subtle, and it is dangerous. What makes these idols so dangerous is that they are nearly always good things taken to the wrong extent.

There are three insights we should be aware of about idolatry:

An idol is anything that promises a life of security and joy apart from God

Idols engage the deepest emotions in our hearts

Idols demand sacrifices to keep them happy

An idol is like a brush fire. It never says, "That's enough." Instead, it just keeps asking for more.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:14, Ephesians 5:5

What kind of "idols" in today's world do we raise up instead of God?

LIVING IT OUT

The only answer to the empty pursuit of idolatry is the Gospel. Here are three things the Gospel does to combat idolatry in our lives - if we surrender to it:

It Identifies The Root, Not Just The Symptoms - regardless of what we make into an idol in our lives, the gospel shows the root is the same. Our brokenness, our pride. We have to humbly accept this reality to see past the idols we make.

Read 1 John 2:16, Colossians 3:5

Why is idol-making such a part of our human instinct?

It Always Leads Us To Life And Not Death - idolatry leaves us with nothing. The Gospel gives us a more purposeful and abundant life.

Read John 10:10, James 1:17

Idols are attractive - how do we keep in mind where the abundant life really is?

It Puts Jesus Back On The Throne - in order to place an idol on the throne of our lives, we have to take Jesus off of it. The Gospel reminds us clearly Jesus is Lord and the only one deserving to be on the throne of our lives.

Read 1 Timothy 6:14-16, Colossians 1:15-17

Are there idols we may be passionate about which appear noble - but still move Jesus off of the throne?