

GGSPEL TREASON

BETRAYING THE GOSPEL WITH YOUR HIDDEN IDOLS



OCTOBER 7, 2023

I am the LORD, that is My name!
I will not give My name to another or My praise to idols.

ISAIAH 42:8



AN IDOL IS ANYTHING OR ANYONE THAT CAPTURES OUR HEARTS, MINDS, AND AFFECTIONS MORE THAN GOD.



WELCOME, MEN



Men's Conference 2023



As a young man, Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) realized he needed a compass to direct his personal life! So, he compiled seventy, biblically based guidelines that became his **RESOLUTIONS**!

We, too, can apply his resolutions as a compass to navigate through life, so we grow in grace (2 Pet 3:18) and guard our hearts from idols that steal our attention away from experiencing daily joy in Christ (John 15:11; 17:13)! Edward's Resolution #4 expresses the necessity to battle against heart idolatry, "Resolved, never to do any manner of thing, whether in soul or body, less or more, but what tends to the glory of God; nor be, nor suffer it, if I can avoid it." This same concept is echoed by two other Reformers. Martin Luther stated, "Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is your god," as well as John Calvin who called the hearts of men idol factories incessantly failing to find Jesus as their all in ALL!

Idolatry is by far the most frequently discussed problem in the Scriptures. Yet too many of us shrug off our selfish heart desires, ignoring the command to "keep yourselves from idols" (1 John 5:21). The question for each of us today is "Have I Committed Gospel Treason?"

What's Our Problem? We all have desires that compete against finding joy and satisfaction in Jesus! Today, what is your deepest identity, fear,

or goal? What's that thing you hope (even if you know better than to admit it out loud) will bring you the most lasting satisfaction or devotion? We all have more than one. Some of our idols are straightforwardly sinful (lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life), while some lovely gifts from God have become idols (health, spouse, children, job, etc.). They appeal to us because they are good! We can't just shake them off, nor should we, necessarily. However, we can learn to value them as gifts from God without letting them be God. Unfortunately, this inconvenient Biblical truth is not enough to keep us from committing heart idolatry and Gospel Treason!

What is the Solution? This year's Resolved Conference will provide us with an opportunity to explore our hearts and examine what idols need killing, in order to experience real lasting change, as Pastor Brad Bigney admonishes and exhorts us to lean more and more into the Gospel and Jesus Himself as our true and lasting meaning in life!

Welcome to **Kindred's Resolved Men's Conference** and please pray with me for God to raise up a generation of men loyal to the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Prov 20:6; 2 Tim 1:8-14). As we prepare for Brad's ministry to our hearts, listen to the words of Edwards one more time, "I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: Resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age." (Resolution 52).

In Christ

Pastor Philip



They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised.

ROMANS 1:25

Little children guard yourselves from idols

1 JOHN 5:21

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

| 7:30 AM Check-In & Breakfast |
|---------------------------------|
| 8:15 AM Session 1, Brad Bigney |
| 9:30 AM Break & Bookstore |
| 9:45 AM Session 2, Brad Bigney |
| 10:45 AM Break & Bookstore |
| 11:00 AM Session 3, Brad Bigney |
| 12:00 рм Lunch & Bookstore |
| 12:45 рм Session 4, Brad Bigney |
| 1-45 PM Dismiss |

Be careful not to forget the covenant of the LORD your God that he made with you; do not make for yourselves an idol in the form of anything the LORD your God has forbidden. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

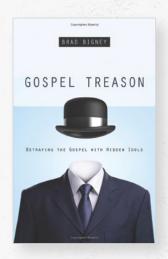
DEUTERONOMY 4:23-24

OUR SPEAKER



Brad Bigney

Brad Bigney is a graduate of Columbia Bible College and Columbia Biblical Seminary in South Carolina. He is a certified biblical counselor with ACBC (Assoc. of Certified Biblical Counselors) and is involved in the counseling ministry of the church, as well as teaching in other conferences and training centers across the nation. He's the author of Gospel Treason – Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols. Brad has been serving as the Lead Pastor of Grace Fellowship Church in Florence, Kentucky, since January 1996. He and his wife Vicki have been married for over thirty years and have 5 grown children.



Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols

When we find it hard to grow in Christ, it is time to search our hearts for idolatry.

Using real-life stories and examples, Brad Bigney's Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols shows us how the idols we might not even recognize can still have devastating effects in our lives. In this transparent, honest book, he helps us to identify our idols, understand how they lead us to commit treason against the gospel — and finally repent of them and root them out forever by turning to the only One who can fill our every need.

WHAT DOES GOD KNOW ABOUT MY HEART?

Correlates with Intro, Ch. 1-2 Gospel Treason book

Grace Fellowship Church | Pastor Brad Bigney

Jeremiah 2:11-13 "Has a nation changed its gods, which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory for what does not profit. Be astonished, 0 heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be very desolate,' says the LORD. For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn for themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Because of our sin nature that relentlessly drives us away from God and towards everything else but God, most of us have spent a lifetime digging other cisterns – places we hope will sustain us... fulfill us... satisfy us... and bring us peace and joy.

I. Idolatry is a Constant Threat Because We're So Prone to Gospel Drift

Hebrews 2:1 "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."

The problem that we have with idolatry is not just a fringe issue. It's central to all that's going on in your life. You don't want to treat idolatry like some footnote or addendum that you might or might not get around to addressing as it relates to the bigger issues you're facing and struggling with in life.

Gospel drift away from your Savior is what kick-starts idolatry and throws it into gear because we were made to worship – so we will worship SOMETHING. If not Jesus, then something else!

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

Revelation 2:4 "But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first."

| Idols thrive when the | e Gospel dies. | |
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II. Idolatry is Alive and Well Today Even Though it's Rarely Spoken of in Christian Circles

Idolatry is so often what's lurking deep beneath the surface of our sins that we just can't seem to shake... it's what drives your strongest emotions when you can't figure out why something makes you so angry... or so sad... or so anxious and fearful.

"Idolatry is by far the most frequently discussed problem in the Scriptures... the relevance of massive chunks of Scripture hangs on our understanding of idolatry."

- David Powlison, "Idols of the Heart and Vanity Fair," Journal of Biblical Counseling 13, no. 2 (Winter 1995), p. 35

Idolatry is the most comprehensive description of what unbelief looks like. So if we misunderstand idolatry or push it out to the extreme margins of our life, we're cutting ourselves off from one of the most comprehensive descriptions of unbelief that the biblical writers gives us.

I John 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

John - the Apostle of love - wrote 105 verses about the importance of living in close, vital relationship with Jesus Christ - and then he makes this statement the final word of his letter! It leaves us asking ourselves the most basic of all questions...

- Has something or someone else besides Jesus Christ taken hold of the title deed of your heart?
- Is there something else that grips you... and owns you... and moves you to take action?

Even something GOOD... but that good thing has usurped the rightful place of Jesus Christ in your heart! And that's the constant danger! You can confess with your lips all day long that 'Jesus is Lord', but if your choices and thoughts and actions are dominated by anything else, you're just fooling yourself.

III. The Reason Idolatry is So Pervasive is Because It's So Illusive – It Flies Under the Radar

Idolatry doesn't operate out in the open, so that's why you can struggle to even know your own heart... because the human heart is so deceptive.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

Idolatry doesn't just alienate you from the God of the universe. It also sucks the very life out of human relationships around you – and crushes them because in your idolatrous craving you end up placing demands on other people around you that they simply cannot bear... because they are sinful, finite, and in most cases busy chasing their own idols! And you've turned FROM God to the created being. No wonder you're so disappointed and bitter and disillusioned.

Romans 1:21-23, 25-26 "Because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man... they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature."

Anything you exchange for God is a lie because it promises more than it can deliver.

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Two things inevitably start to happen whenever idolatry kicks into gear -

- (1) Your human relationships start to heat up in a most unhealthy way because of all the friction created by your unspoken demands and expectations that you're heaping onto the people around you
- (2) Your most important relationship with the God of the universe gets pushed over into deep freeze all the while you're praying and begging God to make this human relationship what you need it to be and you keep wondering why He's not answering!

God won't help you chase your idols.

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images."

An idol is ANYTHING or anyone that begins to CAPTURE our HEARTS and MINDS and AFFECTIONS more than God.

IV. If You'll Dig Deep Enough Idolatry is Almost Always the Sin Beneath the Sin

Idolatry is at the hub of our sin! Picture a bicycle wheel with a central hub and spokes running out from it all the way around. The hub is where your idols live – and every one of those spokes are specific sins.

And so our specific sins – if you would take the time and do the hard work to check into it – can usually be traced back to one of our 'idols' almost every time!

"Sin is what we do when we're not satisfied in God."

- John Piper

HOMEWORK

- 1. "Identifying Personal Idols" worksheet See pages 22-23.
- 2. Read "Gospel Treason" book: Intro, Ch. 1 & 2
- **3. Ask God** to show you who or what your idols are.

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WHY IS THE HEART SUCH A BIG DEAL?

Correlates with Intro, Ch. 3 & 6 Gospel Treason book

Grace Fellowship Church | Pastor Brad Bigney

Reasons why idolatry is such a big deal

I. Idolatry is Simply False Worship - so it Flies in the Face of God

Exodus 20:3 "You shall have no other gods before Me."

Matthew 22:37–39 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

The very essence of idolatry is false worship.

An idol is **ANYTHING** or anyone that begins to **CAPTURE** our **HEARTS** and **MINDS** and **AFFECTIONS** more than God.

You and I were meant to live on God, so the bottom line with idolatry is that you're living on substitutes that will ultimately leave you heart-broken, disappointed, disillusioned and demanding far more from the people around you than they can ever give.

II. Idolatry is Rooted in the Desires of Your Own Heart – so there's No One to Blame but You

Ezekiel 14:1-5

Idols BIND you and BLIND you. They want to make you a slave to your own desires; and they keep you from seeing yourself, God and other people the way you should. Idols enslave you and twist your very perception of life.

Idols are terrible masters because they demand your first love and best thoughts and time and affection, but they never satisfy and always leave you in a state of agitation and dizzy discontentment.

"We know a good thing has become a counterfeit god when its demands on you exceed proper boundaries... An idolatrous attachment can lead you to break any promise, rationalize any indiscretion, or betray any other allegiance, in order to hold on to it. It may drive you to violate all good and proper boundaries. To practice idolatry is to be a slave."

- Counterfeit Gods: the Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters, Timothy Keller, [New York: Dutton, 2009] 23-24.

Psalm 106:36 "They served their idols, which became a snare to them."

"Idolatry is by far the most frequently discussed problem in the Scriptures... the relevance of massive chunks of Scripture hangs on our understanding of idolatry."

- David Powlison

In the OT – the characteristic and summary word that describes our drift away from God is 'idolatry.'

In the NT – the word "Desires" or "Lust" is the characteristic and summary word used to describe the same thing that the OT is talking about when it uses the word 'idolatry.' And the Greek word used in the NT is 'epithumia' –it refers to any desire that's strong enough to motivate behavior.

Ephesians 2:1–3 "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts [epithumia – longing, craving] of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others."

Ephesians 4:20–22 "20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts [epithumia]"

Lusts are always 'Deceitful'!

Use the emotional highs and lows in your life to trace your way back to some potential idols.

Jeremiah 2:12-13 "Be astonished, O heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid; be very desolate,' says the LORD. For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn for themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water."

Are you continually devastated by the people around you and life's circumstances?

| That's a sure sign that you're expecting | way too | much | from | the | people | around | you | and | not |
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| looking nearly enough to your Savior. | | | | | | | | | |

III. Idolatry is Just a Shallow Substitute for Christ – that Always Leaves You Thirsty and Looking for More

John 4:10, 3-14 "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water'... And Jesus said to her, 'Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again. But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

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| Christ has the thirst-quenching satisfaction you've been looking for in all the wrong places! |
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| Idolatry is a monster that'll never be satisfied. It has to be put to death, not satisfied. It cannot be appeased because people, promotions, and earthly passions can never fill the God-shaped vacuum you carry around with you. |
| IV. Idolatry Requires a Specific Plan of Action & Repentance – Because It'll Never Go Away on its Own |
| Matthew 11:28–30 " ²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." |
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HOMEWORK

- 1. "Identifying Personal Idols" worksheet See pages 22-23.
- 2. Read "Gospel Treason" book: Ch. 3 & 6
- **3. Ask God** to show you who or what your idols are.

HOW DO I LOOK FOR IDOLS IN MY HEART?

Correlates with Intro, Ch. 7 & 8 Gospel Treason book

Grace Fellowship Church | Pastor Brad Bigney

An idol = **Anything** or **Anyone** that begins to **Capture** our **Hearts** and **Minds** and **Affections** more than God. It's living on substitutes. It's exchanging the one true living God for a counterfeit.

Idolatry is not so much wanting the wrong thing, but wanting even good things too much.

Four Ways to track down idols in your life:

I. Follow the Trail of Your Time, Money, and Affection

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

"Some of us attend the church on the corner, professing to worship the living God above all. Others, who rarely darken the church doors, would say worship isn't a part of their lives because they aren't 'religious.' But everybody has an altar. And every altar has a throne.

So how do you know where and what you worship? It's easy. You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your allegiance. At the end of that trail you'll find a throne; and whatever, or whomever, is on that throne is what's of highest value to you. On that throne is what you worship.

Sure, not too many of us walk around saying, 'I worship my stuff. I worship my job. I worship this pleasure. I worship her. I worship my body. I worship me!' But the trail never lies. We may say we value this thing or that thing more than any other, but the volume of our actions speaks louder than our words. In the end, our worship is more about what we do than what we say."

- The Air I Breathe, Louie Giglio

Whenever idolatry kicks in, you will:

- a. Sacrifice for it
- b. Spend Time on it
- c. Spend Money on it
- d. Talk about it (Matt. 12:34 "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.")
- e. Serve it
- f. Protect it
- q. Perfect it
- h. Think about it
- i. Build your schedule around it
- j. Worry about it
- k. Get Angry when someone blocks you from it
- l. Live in Fear that you might lose it

One of the biggest indicators that a person or object is functioning as an idol in your life is that fear becomes one of the chief characteristics of your life.

2 Cor. 4:6-9 "⁸ For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have **this treasure** in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, **but not** crushed; perplexed, **but not** driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, **but not** forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"

V. 9...

| Afflicted | but not | CRUSHED |
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II. Take Note of Your Heart During Suffering

Suffering exposes our hearts.

No matter how long you've walked with the Lord, when you face deep disappointment and suffering, it pushes to the surface what's really going on in the heart. Heat pushes heart to the surface.

You find out 3 things in the heat of suffering:

- (1) What you really love
- (2) What you really believe not just what you say you believe
- (3) What you really run to as your ultimate security and greatest treasure

Don't waste your suffering. It's a great time to see some of the stuff that's been going on in your heart.

III. Look for Chaos!

...because chaos and idolatry run hand in hand.

James 3:16 "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing will be there."

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| righ Our | u have idols in the heart, you have chaos to some degree or another, but it doesn't jump t out at you. We don't usually make that connection. Our sights are set somewhere else. first thought is that the people around us are just getting in our way and being so difficult unreasonable. |
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| IV. | Ask Yourself Some Heart Diagnostic Questions |
| | (1) Am I willing to sin to Get it? |
| | (2) Am I willing to sin if I think I'm going to Lose it? |
| | (3) Do I run to it for Refuge instead of turning to God? |
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| V. | Repenting and Rejoicing is the Way to Get Free! |
| | Colossians 3:1–5 (ESV) "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. ⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." |
| | Philippians 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ" |
| How | would you honestly finish that sentence in your own life? |
| "For | me to live is" |
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HOMEWORK

- 1. "Identifying Personal Idols" worksheet See pages 22-23.
- 2. Read "Gospel Treason" book: Ch. 7 & 8
- **3. Ask** God to show you who or what your idols are.

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HOW DO IDOLS WRECK MY RELATIONSHIPS?

Correlates with Intro, Ch. 4 Gospel Treason book James 4:1-3; Rom. 8:18-26

Grace Fellowship Church | Pastor Brad Bigney

Your relationships take some of the biggest hits because of your idols. It's the people closest to us – husbands... wives... kids... parents... co-workers that are bearing the brunt of so much of our idolatry every day – while we go on thinking that it's all because of these other people that we've got so many problems and frustrations.

"Do you have any conflict in your life? Do you experience moments of extreme irritation toward someone you otherwise love? Are there people who simply push your buttons more than others? Do certain things drive you crazy on a daily basis?... Why does it seem that people, things, and situations are in our way? Why do we seldom go through a day without some experience of conflict? The answer to all of these questions is that we think of our lives as our own, and we are more committed to the purposes of our own kingdom than we are to God's. We need to recognize that the people in our way have been sent to us by a wise and sovereign King. He never gets a wrong address and always chooses just the right moment to expose our hearts and realign them to His."

- Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, Paul David Tripp, p. 75-76, 106-107

God is using your circumstances and the people in your life to expose your heart!

"After I was saved, and before I was married, I lived under the mad, undaunted delusion that I was spiritually mature. Mine was a rich and largely imaginary kind of holiness. If ignorance is bliss, I was in permanent ecstasy. The infrequent examinations of my seemingly innocent heart revealed little need for improvement... then it happened. I got married and became a blame-shifter.

John Bettler has said, 'Your spouse always hooks your idol.' But marriage didn't simply hook my idols; it hoisted them six feet in the air and towed them around the house. I can't tell you how many times I thought, 'I never had these problems before. This must be my wife's fault.' The truth is, I'd always been a blame-shifter it's just that after getting married there were so many more good opportunities to express this fault!"

| When Sinners Sa | y 'I Do', David | Harvey, pp | . 68-69 |
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Three Reasons for so much of the conflict and confusion in our relationships.

I. Your Idols Have Declared War on Everyone Else Around You

When idols set up camp on the throne of your heart... so much of your day will be spent promoting your own agenda... and your own kingdom at all costs.

James 4:1-3 "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust [epithumia – long, crave] and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss [with wrong motives NIV], that you may spend it on your pleasures."

ESV "... Is it not this, that your passions are at WAR within you?"

HCSB "... Don't they come from the CRAVINGS that are at WAR within you?"

There's a war INSIDE you long before war breaks out AROUND you with anyone else!

The real problem under the surface of all our conflicts is that two kingdoms are colliding. What's ruling your heart and what's ruling my heart are meeting head on... and we both can't be 'King' at the same time.

II. Your Idols Change the Way You See & Treat Everyone Else Around You

If my heart is ruled by a certain desire, there are only **Two Ways** I can respond to you:

- (1) If you're helping me get what I want, I'll be happy with you... treat you well... allow you into my world
- (2) But if you stand in my way, I will be angry, frustrated. Because you stand in the way of what I crave, I will lash out at you, push you away, or shut you out.

Instead of loving people, you start using people, and avoiding people, and attacking people who get in your way.

"I have yet to meet a couple locked in hostility (and the accompanying fear, self-pity, hurt, self-righteousness) who really understood and reckoned with their motives. James 4:1-3 teaches that cravings underlie conflicts. Why do you fight? It's not 'because my wife/ husband...' – it's because of something about you. Couples who see what rules them – cravings for affection, attention, power, vindication, control, comfort, a hassle-free life – can repent and find God's grace made real to them, and then learn how to make peace."

- **Seeing With New Eyes**, David Powlison, p. 151

Think about where you have the most conflict in your life right now. The two are not unrelated. Cravings underlie conflicts.

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III. Your Idols Ultimately Hijack Legitimate Desires and Turn Them into Ugly Demands



Tim Keller says that when you finally realize what keeps happening to you –and how you keep getting disappointed with people – there are **Four Ways** that you can respond:

- (1) You can blame the specific people or things that are disappointing you and try to move on to bigger and better ones.
- (2) You can blame yourself and beat yourself up saying, "I'm a failure, because everybody else I see is happy. So there's something wrong with me. I guess I'm just a big loser."
- (3) You can blame everyone in general, by saying, "Curses on the entire opposite sex. I'm so done with men... or I'm so done with women."
- (4) You can do what C.S. Lewis talks about:

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world [something supernatural and eternal]."

- Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis "Hope."

Romans 8:18-23 "18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility [NIV frustration], not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

HOMEWORK

- 1. "Identifying Personal Idols" worksheet See pages 22-23.
- 2. Read "Gospel Treason" book: Ch. 4
- 3. Ask God to show you who or what your idols are.

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IDENTIFYING PERSONAL 'IDOLS'

Ask Yourself...

- 1. Am I willing to sin to get this?
- 2. Am I willing to sin if I think I'm going to lose this?
- 3. Do I turn to this as a 'Refuge' and comfort instead of going to God?

"Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."

Jonah 2:8 (NIV)

"Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flows the issues of life."

Prov. 4:23

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psa. 139:23-24

Questions to Ask Yourself

as you search your own heart

- What do you want, desire, seek, aim for, pursue, hope for?
- What are your goals, expectations, intentions?
- What do you feel like doing? Do you want what you want, or do you want Christ's lordship over your life?
- Where do you look for security, meaning, happiness, fulfillment, joy, or comfort? Where you do put your 'basic trust'?
- What would make you happy?
- What do you fear? What do you tend to worry about?
- · What do you love and hate most of all?
- How do you define success or failure in a particular situation?
- What image do you have of who you are? Ought to be or want to be?
- At your deathbed what to you would sum up your life as worthwhile?
- What do you see as your 'rights'?
- When you are pressured or tense, where do you turn? What do you think about?
- What do you pray for?

MEN'S CONFERENCE 2023 | HOMEWORK: IDENTIFYING PERSONAL 'IDOLS'

| Place a next to the items / issues that you think might be current or potent 'idols' in your life | ial |
|---|------------|
| Performance, especially for significant others: You try to please in order to get or to ke acceptance or approval. Example for parents or spouse: When you seek to please a perrather than God, this is idolatry. If this is the case, then you are worshiping that perrather than God. Being fearful of what others think rather than obeying God is a problem | son son |
| □ Performance of self (perfectionism): You try to perform to standards that you have a Becoming a Pharisee is a danger. When you meet the standard, you feel good; when don't, you feel bad. You have made a personal list for yourself to follow that is higher that what God says. | you |
| □ Performance of others: You make a list of what others should do. Example: "For my spot to be a good husband/wife, he/she <i>must</i> " If your spouse doesn't these things, you become judgmental and unloving. | |
| ☐ Good health: This shouldn't be your goal, except to glorify God. It's okay to pray for heali but getting healed should not become an idol. God may want you to be sick in order to glo himself (see John9). | |
| ☐ Love of money: You take a promotion just to get more money. | |
| ☐ Success: What's a good day to you? What made it a good day in your mind? Usually it's all these lines: "I got a lot accomplished/done." Or "I pleased significant others." Or "I got way. Others did for me what I wanted them to do." | |
| ☐ Fairness: Life has to be fair (Ps. 73)! "I've been trying to please God; others aren't e trying, yet they prosper." This can cause you to almost forsake the faith (Ps.73:2). | ven |
| ☐ Hurt-free/pain-free life: "I don't want to deal with problems. There shouldn't be difficulties. I shouldn't have to go through anything unsettlingbecause I just want peace | |
| ☐ Christian marriage and home: "I want people to look at our marriage and think we have best marriage in the world." Or "I cannot serve God and have joy until my spouse chan and starts doing." Or "I'll be successful if my children turn out right." | |
| ☐ Physical appearance. | |
| ☐ Being respected/admired. | |
| ☐ Being self-sufficient/independent. | |
| ☐ A material thing—for example, car, house, jewelry. | |
| ☐ Athletic abilities/achievements. | |
| ☐ Hobbies—sports, reading, whatever. | |
| $\hfill\square$ An ideal—for example, pro-life movement, peace movement, political party. | |
| ☐ Success/position/power. | |
| ☐ Worldly pleasures—for example, drugs, alcohol, food,sex. | |
| ☐ Being in control. | |
| ☐ Meeting goals/achievements. | |
| ☐ A child or children. | |
| ☐ Getting married. | |
| ☐ Having your "needs" met. | |
| □ Other: | |



MEN'S ACTIVITIES



Discipleship

Kindred Men's biblical discipleship ministry is a process of one-on-one mentoring, whereby another man draws alongside of you to assist you in studying God's word, praying with you and for you, and helping you to apply God's words to your life, to your family, to your business, to your ministry, and most of all, to your deepening and right relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ and His indwelling Spirit living vibrantly within you now. Our discipleship is based on the Apostle Paul's relationship with young Timothy (I & II Timothy), is personal and deeply relational and involves tremendous personal growth for you (Timothy) and your discipler (Paul).

Contact | Mark Bundy | mark@pcgoc.com



Discipleship Manuals

Operation Timothy is an investigative Bible Study with the goal of helping men grow spiritually. Operation Timothy is not just a curriculum or program that teaches information and principles. It is an opportunity for you to enter into a relationship with another believer or seeker, either one-on-one or with several in a small group. The purpose is that each person will grow in intimacy with God and catch the vision of multiplying disciples. God uses those of you who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit to reach the next generation. The process of OT is something larger than you, and yet it allows you to leverage your impact in this world.

Book 1 – "Life Questions" Deals with the What, Where, Who and Why of our Christian Faith. Basic Biblical answers to life's common questions.

Book 2 – "Life Foundations" Deals with understanding the basic concepts of our "new life in Christ", our "new identity. It deals with handling temptation and understanding the power of the Holy Spirit.

Book 3 – "Life Perspectives" Deals with process of our "progressive sanctification". Our becoming more "Christlike" as we dig deeper into the Scriptures.

MEN'S ACTIVITIES



Men's Monthly Breakfast

On the second Saturday of every month, over 250 men of Kindred of all ages, along with men who are visiting us, gather together in the Kindred Sanctuary to enjoy a hearty breakfast, while enjoying personal fellowship, discipleship and small group discussion time, followed by praise to our Lord in worship and song, then highlighted by expository teaching and application by our pastor, Philip De Courcy.

Areas to serve:

Serve Breakfast
Setup and Tear Down
Contacts
Mark Bundy | mark@pcgoc.com
Joe Miller Dunn | joe@kindredchurch.org



Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Studies provide an opportunity for men to come together to grow together in the Word as well as to strengthen and encourage each other as we walk with our Lord. We take time to understand the passages and really get men involved with the study, prayer and experience a caring fellowship. Our Wednesday Study group is in a verse by verse study of the book of Proverbs which provides such great depth of insight. The Friday Study group is mining through Romans and soon begins chapter 6 and onward in this rich epistle. Enjoying this time with a delicious breakfast is a win.

Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00 AM
KSM Building - at our Chaparral Court offices
Contact | John Lopez | 714-878-0965

Thursday 6:30 to 8:00 AM
The Original Pancake House - Norco
Contact | Ken Wilson | 714-878-0965

Friday 6:30 to 8:00 AM
The Original Pancake House - Orange
Contacts | Tim Geftakys | 714-883-4290

2024 MEN'S CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 12

You'll want to plan ahead to attend next year's conference, as our keynote speaker will be Tim Challies.



Tim Challies is a pastor, noted speaker, author of numerous articles, and a pioneer in the Christian blogosphere. Tens of thousands of people visit <u>Challies.com</u> each day, making it one of the most widely read and recognized Christian blogs in the world. Tim is the author of several books, including <u>Visual Theology</u>, <u>The Next Story</u>, and, most recently, <u>Epic: An Around-the-World Journey through Christian History</u>. He and his family reside near Toronto, Ontario.

FELLOWSHIP AND FUN



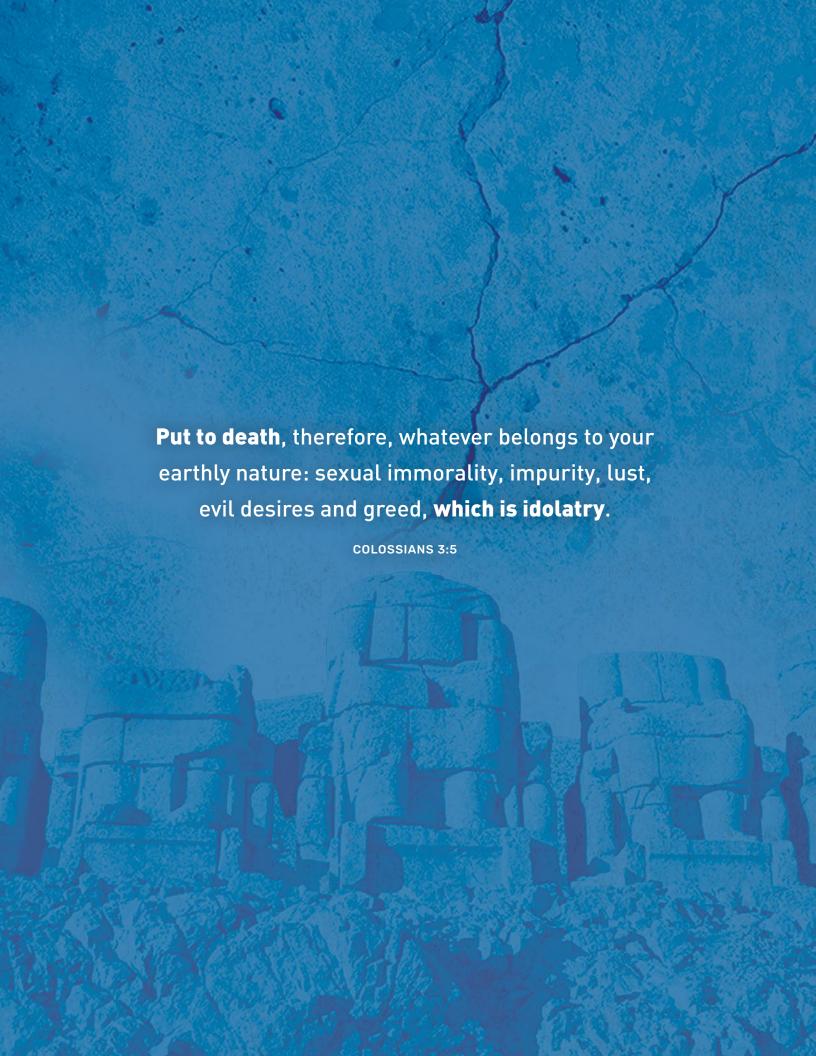








Contacts
Mark Bundy | mark@pcgoc.com
Joe Miller | joe@kindredchurch.org



RECOMMENDED READING

ON THE HEART AND IDOLATRY

Counterfeit Gods

The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power Tim Keller, 2009

Lost in the Middle

Midlife and the Grace of God Paul Tripp, 2004

Gods at War

Defeating the Idols that Battle for Your Heart Kyle Idleman, 2013

No God But God

Breaking with Idols of Our AgeOs Guinness, 1992

Keeping the Heart

John Flavel, 1667 (modern edition 1998)

You Can Change

Tim Chester

Idols of the Heart

Learning to Long for God Alone Revised and Updated Elyse M. Fitzpatrick

The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life

Connecting Christ to Human ExperienceJeremy Pierre

Passions of the Heart

Biblical Counsel For Stubborn Sexual SinsJohn Street

Sex & Money

Pleasures That Leave You Empty and Grace That Satisfies Paul David Tripp

Awe

Why It Matters For Everything We think, Say, & Do Paul David Tripp

Addictions

A Banquet in the Grace – Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel

Edward T. Welch

The Heart of Addiction

A Biblical Perspective Mark E. Shaw

Cultural Counterfeits

Confronting 5 Empty Promises of Our Age and How We Were Made for So Much More Jen Oshman



MEN,

consider sharing these Kindred Women's Ministry events with the women in your life.



KINDRED COMMUNITY CHURCH

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2023-2024

BIBLE STUDIES | meet every other week

- Abide—1, 2, & 3 John: by Jen Wilkin Tuesday PM beginning September 12th
- Better—Hebrews: by Jen Wilkin Thursday PM beginning September 21st
- 2 Thessalonians / Lamentations 3: by Lisa Hughes Friday AM beginning September 22nd

WOMEN'S EVENTS

- Women's Christmas Event: Thursday, November 30th & Friday, December 1st
- Women's Spring Retreat (2024): Saturday, April 27th

SEASONS OF LIFE GROUPS

- MOMS (for Mothers of Many Stages

 Birth-6th Grade) meets every other
 week beginning September 15th
- Joy in the Mourning (for widowed ladies) meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month
- Single Sisters (for single, divorced, and widowed ladies) meets the 2nd Sunday each month after second service



TO REGISTER kindredchurch.org/women



Counseling (Discipleship

TRAINING

FEATURED INSTRUCTORS



Andrew Rogers



Juan Moncayo



Roberto Amorim

3 TRACKS



FUNDAMENTALS
TRAINING COURSE
English or Spanish



SPECIALIZATION *Reconciliation Counseling*

COST

DATES

Feb 16-17 | Mar 15-16 | Apr 19-20

Fridays: 6:30pm to 9:30pm Saturdays: 8:30Am to 3:45pm



TO REGISTER ► kindredchurch.org/cdt



