

Introduction

- Lesson text: [Col. 3:5-9](#)
- 1. “In the beginning God...” ([Gen. 1:1](#)).
- 2. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” ([Ex. 20:3](#)).
- 3. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God” ([Jn. 1:1-2](#)).
- 4. In all ages of men God has always demanded that He be first and thus has always forbidden idolatry.
 - a. There is no God besides Him anyway ([Isa. 44:6](#); cf. [Isa. 44:8](#), [45:5](#), [21](#); [Hos. 13:4](#)).
 - b. The foolishness of idolatry ([Ps. 115:1-8](#)).
- 5. Idolatry defined.
 - a. *eidololatria* (G1495 noun) found four times in the New Testament ([1 Cor. 10:14](#); [Gal. 5:20](#); **Col. 3:5**; [1 Pt. 4:3](#)).
 - i. “the worship of idols” (Louw-Nida 540).
 - ii. An idol is a false god that may be represented in many ways e.g., image, statue, picture/painting, imagination, etc.
 - b. Another definition for idolatry is anything that we place before God ([Mt. 6:33](#); cf. [1 Cor. 10:14-22](#)).

I. Why is Idolatry a Problem?

1. Idolatry is a problem because two evils are committed by it ([Jer. 2:13](#)).
 - a. Judah had forsaken the one, true, and living God for idols ([Jer. 2:5-11](#)).
 - b. Why would anyone do this?
 - i. No fear of God ([Jer. 2:19](#); cf. [Ps. 36:1](#)).
 - ii. Ignorance ([Ac. 17:22-23](#); cf. [Pr. 1:7](#), [9:10](#)).
 - iii. Lack of glorification of God and not thankful to Him ([Rm. 1:20-25](#)).
2. Idolatry is a problem because it is an abomination to God ([Jer. 2:7](#); cf. [Dt. 7:25-26](#)).
3. Idolatry is a problem because it is vain ([Jer. 2:5](#); cf. [Dt. 32:21](#)).
4. Idolatry is a problem because it deceives ([Isa. 44:9-20](#)).
5. Idolatry is a problem because it condemns the soul to hell ([Gal. 5:19-21](#)).
 - a. Idolatry can be cured ([1 Cor. 6:9-11](#)).

II. Idols of Today

1. Pleasures.
 - a. Illicit sexual intercourse ([Rm. 1:26-27](#)).
 - b. Alcohol, smoking, vaping, other drug use, etc. ([1 Th. 5:6-8](#)).
 - c. Be careful with entertainment, sports, gaming, etc.
2. Possessions.
 - a. Life is not about material possessions ([Lk. 12:15](#)).
 - b. Covetousness, which is idolatry ([Col. 3:5](#); [Eph. 5:5](#)).
 - c. Be careful with cellphones and the Internet.
3. Busyness.
 - a. Poor time management which results in being busy with everything that there is no time for God.
 - b. We are to redeem the time ([Eph. 5:15-17](#)).
4. Self.
 - a. Creature worship is still a problem today ([Rm. 1:25](#)).
5. False religions.
 - a. People have invented imaginary versions of God and thus made false religions.
 - b. We are to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment ([1 Cor. 1:10](#)).
 - c. Christ only built one church ([Mt. 16:18-19](#); [Eph. 1:20-23](#), [4:4](#)).

III. How to Put Off Idolatry

1. Fear God and keep His commandments ([Ecc. 12:13-14](#)).
2. God must be our everything ([Mt. 6:33](#), [22:37](#)).
3. Be thankful in all things at all times ([Eph. 5:20](#)).
4. Glorify God ([Eph. 3:21](#)).
 - a. We glorify God by doing what He says ([Jn. 17:4](#)).

Conclusion

1. “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, *even* in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen” ([1 Jn. 5:20-21](#)).