

Turn Ye Not to Idols

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Leviticus 19:4 Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.

- I. What is an idol, and why would anyone turn to one?
 - A. The text begins with the word “turn” ...”Turn ye not unto idols.”
 - 1. So an idol is something that will require you to turn from God and his will.
 - 2. An idol requires a change; a change of opinion, moral standards, lifestyle, associations.
 - 3. An idol requires you to move from one place or position to another.
 - 4. An idol will almost always call you away from holiness and righteousness to tolerance, acceptance, and then participation with ungodliness and ungodly people.
 - 5. In order to entice you to turn from God this idol must appear to offer something better; there is nothing better than God, so an idol is a lie from its first appearance to your consciousness.
 - 6. If you love God, the idol must steal your heart from God before you will turn from Him.
 - B. The first and greatest commandment is:

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (OT)

Mark 12:30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (NT- Jesus himself)

- C. Idolatry is the opposite of this in any part or fashion.
- D. So therefore, any other love in our life that comes before God would be an idol.
 - 1. Could be people: spouse, children, friends.
 - 2. Could be things: money, possessions, work, service to God.
 - 3. Could be pride: fame, popularity, acceptance by others.
- E. Anything that our heart is set on that we would allow to direct us contrary to God and his will.
 - 1. This would mean that the objects of our desires could be idols, or the even the desires themselves might be the idol.
- F. Anything we give our strength to that causes our love for God to grow cold would be an idol.
- G. Anything we allow our mind to become occupied with that steals time and thought away from God and his word would be an idol.
- H. When we allow our soul to become deaf and dumb toward God, but alive toward the things of this world, we are turning to idols.
- I. An idol is nothing, so simply turning from God to *nothing* is also idolatry;

1 Corinthians 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

1. Just forsaking the house of God, the people of God, the Word of God, and staying home would be turning to idols.
 - J. God likens idolatry to adultery and makes the two words almost synonymous.
 1. So anything at all that has any part in interrupting or distracting our love for God is idolatry.
 - K. Those who do not believe in any god are idolaters.
 1. Without exception they have their hearts set on something besides God.
 2. Without exception they give their strength and devotion to something – but it is not God.
 - L. Selfishness is idolatry, because it is the supreme love of self above all others, including God.
 - M. Any time that anyone walks away from God they are turning to idols.
 1. It is not possible to turn from God without turning TO something else.
 - N. Any time anyone turns from holiness they are turning to idols, because they have invented an image of God in their mind that is different than what the Bible tells us He is like.
- II. Think about how foolish it is to turn to idols from the living God.
- A. To turn from the Almighty God to powerless, impotent, non-existent fantasies.
 - B. To give up a living relationship with a living God and trade it for an idol that cannot see, hear, feel, answer, or do anything for you.
 - C. To turn from the God that loves you and will make you holy and happy forever, to something that will deceive you, debauch you, ruin you, leave you heartbroken, and make you forever miserable.
 - D. We are the work of God's hands – how absurd it is for us to turn from God who made us and worship things made with our own hands!
 - E. It is a fool's game to even look at the idols of this world, let alone to set your heart on them.
 1. They are a lie from first time they entice your heart.
 2. They are the destruction of the soul, the life, and eternity.
 3. They mean to rob you of God and his blessings and his presence in your life.