

The Focused Life

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 10:14-11:1.

B. Jesus sends us out like sheep amidst wolves, but there is an answer.

II. God provides a way of escape with temptation.

A. Our problems are controlled pressures.

B. Consequently, idolatry should be shunned.

1. What Paul has in mind was enjoying again the temple atmosphere not direct idolatry.

2. Idolatry occurs when anything becomes more important to a person than the living God does.

3. There are certain atmospheres that a believer can get into that become controlling--the believer is to flee these.

4. When what one owns begins to own him, he verges on idolatry.

III. Reasons idolatry is so dangerous.

A. It will displace one's love for Christ. No man can serve two masters--they cannot be mixed.

1. With the table of the Lord, we are reminding ourselves of our basic identity.

2. In Christ, we no longer live on our own self-esteem but on the righteousness of God.

3. What one eats is a manifestation of what one is.

B. Demonic control is behind idolatry.

1. The devil is at work through deceit.

2. Idolatry awakens the jealousy of God.

C. Idolatry is an obstacle to other believers.

IV. Practical guidelines.

A. The believer is to enjoy life not being overly scrupulous.

B. We are to live our Christian lives right out in the midst of the world.

C. If someone makes an issue or tests you, refuse to go along. (Romans 14:16)

D. Whatever one does, he is to do it to the glory of God.

E. One is not to deliberately offend anyone.

Application questions:

1. What forms does idolatry take in our own culture?

2. Why is idolatry so risky with regard to one's relationship with Christ?

3. Which practical guideline do you find to be the most helpful? Why?
