

Idolatry

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Corinthians 10:14-15.

B. We are to flee from idolatry.

II. The essence of temptation is wanting to be like God. (Genesis 3:5)

A. Satan's program for the church is a counterfeit Jesus, Spirit and Gospel. (II Corinthians 11)

B. The deadliness of idolatry is that it satisfies one's craving to worship.

III. The admonition against idolatry is strong because we face idols in our own contemporary culture.

A. Newer is truer. We should not build a theology on what is contemporary.

B. Bigger is better. It is deadly to be caught up in this trap—numbers become more important than holiness. (John 6:6-69, Luke 9:49-50)

C. Success is knowable and measurable now.

1. If God is leading one into a desert experience, let God be God.

2. We must let people go to the cross.

3. Our definition of success must include the cross. (Matthew 4; 28)

4. The Bible says very little about success but much about the heart. (Proverbs 4:23)

5. We are to acknowledge pain, accept the grace of God and turn to God. (Isaiah 14, II Timothy 2:2, I Thessalonians 1, Exodus 34:2, Psalm 27:8, I John 5)

Application questions:

1. What is the danger of idolatry? Explain.

2. When have you been tempted to buy into the newer simply because of its newness?

3. Why is pain important in the process of true success?
