

Doctrinal Studies **Idolatry**

1. Idolatry defined: American College dictionary: "An image or other material object representing a deity to which religious worship is addressed." "A false god"
2. Idolatry is forbidden in the Bible. Exodus 23:24, Deut 4:28, Deut 5:7-8; 6:14; 7:16; 8:19. In the Ten Commandments, the first commandment prohibits mental idolatry and the second prohibits overt idolatry.
3. Idolatry is an attack upon the love of God, which means Spiritual immorality. Jer 3:8-10; Ezek 16:23-43; 23:24-30, Rev 17:1-5
4. Idolatry in the mind precedes idolatry in practice. Judges 2:10-13; Ezek 14:7
5. Idolatry is caused by rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ and non-perception to God's Word
6. Demons function through idols in the practice of idolatry. Zech 10:2 (Demon influence is very active not only in foreign heathen temples but in modern day churches.) The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit so the saved person cannot be demon possessed. No demon can be in total possession where the Holy Spirit resides but Christians can be influenced by evil, which is satanic influence. We are either influenced by the Word of God or Evil. To be influenced by the Bible will cause us to think God thoughts-to be influenced by evil will cause us to think satanic thoughts.
7. When Christians desire to find happiness apart from God's plan, which is consistent, daily, prayer and Bible study they will become saturated with the cheap substitutes of life. Eph 4:17-19; 5:1-5; Gal 5:16-23 Unhappy, miserable, frustrated Christians will, apart from God's plan, search for satisfaction either in lasciviousness or asceticism. Lasciviousness: involvement in overt, corporeal tangible lustful activities. Lust for approval; lust for material possessions, lust for power, lust for fornication, lust for uncleanness (lewdness); lust for rivalries, strife, seditions and heresies. Asceticism: one who practices religious austerities; strict in religious practices. One who either emphasizes the things he doesn't do (self-denial and pride) or emphasizes what he does (religious virtues and pride) Often there is the worship of religious experiences or the worship of important personalities.
8. In ICor 10:19-21 idolatry is called the Devil's communion table.
9. Since idolatry is related to the mental and emotional aspects of the soul, often idolatry results in mental illness; fear Jer 50:38
10. Idolatry is also related to sexual sins as in Ezek 22:3-18; 23:37-49.
11. Idolatry affects both soul and body as revealed in I Cor 6:9.
12. Idolatry brings judgment to a nation. Isa 2:8; 2:18-20; 21:9; 36:18-20; 37:12-19; Jer 3:6-11; 2:27-30; 7:17-20; 17:1-4 and Ezek 6:4-6