

## **IDOLATRY**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ... "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

Today's verses portray quite a list of sins, do they not? In other parts of the Bible, still more sins (such as lying, anger, and more) are added to this list. Our goal today is not to address each of these sins. We do not need to. God is very clear about sin and its consequences. The good news is found in verse 11 where you are reminded that though you were once a sinner bound for hell, your acceptance of Christ as Lord and repentance of your sin, justified you to be in God's kingdom.

Today we want to focus on idolatry. It seems to be the one sin that is mentioned in the Bible most often. Many of the sins we commit are against ourselves and may hurt others. Sexual sins hurt us and others. Anger and stealing affects ourselves and others. But idolatry is the sin that is aimed directly at God. When we allow something to take God's place in our lives, we are thumbing our noses at him; telling him that he is worthless and of no value to us. I believe this to be the reason that the Bible speaks so often about idolatry and why God hates it.

An idol is anything that diverts your attention away from God and causes you to reject his authority. It could be your clothes, jewelry, motorcycle, boyfriend, career, or television. When we think of idols, we immediately think of carved statues. The Bible does depict those as idols, but for many of us there are other things that can be more idolatrous than a statue.

It is important to occasionally survey your life and ask yourself if you have allowed anything to take God's place. They might be very subtle things, such as your own dreams and goals in life, your spouse, or money. Just remember that many of our sins hurt ourselves and others, but idolatry is a direct rejection of God. If you allow that to grow and spread in your soul, you will not be happy with the results.

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