

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **1 John Series**

Sermon Title: **Keep Yourself from Idols**

Scripture Passage: **1 John 5:21**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. We are down to the very last verse in our study of 1 John (5:21) which says, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” At first glance, you might wonder, “Where did that come from?” John hasn’t been saying anything about idolatry. He hasn’t mentioned it in the entire book. So, is it out of context? But if you think about it, doesn’t it actually sum up his entire message? Isn’t idolatry making up your own god as a substitute for the one true God, who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ?

Is there a time in your life when you had an “idol” that you served as more important than God? What was it and why was it so alluring?

Observation Discovering the context

2. Study Galatians 1:4. What is it that God came to rescue us from?
3. Study 2 Corinthians 10:5. How do the “idols” in our lives qualify as things that “raise up against the knowledge of God?” This one will take some thought.
4. Study Ezekiel 14:3. What do you think God meant when He said, “...these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces?” What was it that they actually did and how were their idols responsible for it?

5. Idolatry is a conflict of loyalties. Search your Bible and discover 3 scriptures that speak to being loyal and faithful to honor God and him alone as the one true God, worthy of ALL our praise and loyalty. Ok, I'll give you one, and you only have to discover two more! 😊
 - a. "Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart." Proverbs 3:3
 - b.
 - c.
6. Do you ever find yourself anxiously trying to figure out God's will instead of trusting in Romans 8:28? What happens to your peace, joy, and contentment when you do this?

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

7. Psalm 135:15-18 says, "The idols of the nations are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ¹⁶They have mouths, but do not speak; they have eyes, but do not see; ¹⁷they have ears, but do not hear, nor is there any breath in their mouths. ¹⁸ Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them."

What does the Lord mean when He says, "Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them?"

8. Most Christians have what we would call a "profession of faith." In your own words, what are some of the signs that a Christian has truly made Jesus the Lord of his or her life?

Is it possible to have a profession of faith yet not make Jesus Christ the actual Lord of your life?

9. What is the exhortation in Hebrews 12:1-2 relative to having idols in our lives? Give 3 specific examples of what today would be considered “weight” that Paul warns us to lay aside.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.

Core Truths Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

Practice Makes Progress Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

Worth Memorizing

Scripture: *No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*
(Luke 16:13)

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?