

We are not gods!

Either

We worship the **God** above us,

Or

We make idols of the things below us,
and worship them.

We were made by God, for God. We were made to worship God. We were made to live under him in humble trust and obedience, always looking to him for the fullness of life he intended us to have.

We are simply not capable of being our own gods. We are not capable of providing life for ourselves. So, if we don't worship the true God, we will always make idols of things and worship them. In so doing we degrade ourselves.

Today's modern person may laugh at the ancients who would worship lifeless objects such as the sun or the moon, and who would carve and fashion 'idols' for themselves out of wood, then bow down to them.

'How silly to bow down to a piece of wood!'

'How silly to worship a lifeless object!'

'How shameful to bow down to something far inferior to a human being!'

In effect, however, we 'modern' people do the same thing. We may not bow down to pieces of wood, but we do 'bow down' to that which is less than us.

The writer of Genesis said that God made us in his 'image'. The writer of the Psalms (8:4-6) said:

*'What is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?
Yet you have made him a little lower
than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honour.
You have given him dominion over the
works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,...'*

God made human beings in his image as the pinnacle of his creation, to have dominion over the world, and live in dignity and honour.

Sadly, wanting to be gods ourselves, wanting to raise ourselves up above God, our rebellion against God instead brings us so low, that we degrade ourselves by worshipping idols. Things of this world that were meant to serve us, we now serve and bow down to. Instead of God, we look to idols to give us life in its fullness.

Money, Wealth, Possessions

Home, Family, Children, Food,

Romance, Partner, Sex

Work, Success, Power,

Popularity, The Body Beautiful

Sport, Travel, Adventure

Religion, Comfort, Drugs

Gaming, Goodness, Nature

Emotions, Intellect, Meditation

Control, Political Activism

This list can go on and on.

Think of people who so crave money, that they will tread over other people to gain it, and lack any generosity toward others. How impoverished they make their lives in making money an idol!

Think of people who 'worship' comfort and ease. They hardly put themselves out for others in any sort of sacrificial way, and end up leading sad, lonely, diminished lives.

Think of people who just live for their children, who gain their sense of wellbeing through the

'successes' of their children. They elevate children in their lives so highly that they neglect friendships and community, and fail to develop broader dimensions of who God made them.

What about the person who lives for adventure? Their idol is the 'dopamine hit'. That's what they look to, to give them life. Sure, adventure can be something that adds to life; adventure can 'serve' human wellbeing. But the life God created us for runs far deeper and broader than adventure.

Consider the person who obsesses about creating the 'body beautiful', who is always fussing over their appearance, perhaps constantly exercising at the gym, or undergoing cosmetic procedures, forever buying new clothes, uploading selfies, all for the purpose of being admired. Admiration is their idol, but where does it lead but to a shallow life and existence!

Consider the person who lives for the 'thrill' of new romance, regularly breaking up with a partner to move onto the next one. That's a sure path to loneliness, and to a lack of depth and maturity in relationships.

Think of people who put all their energy and attention on to their work. They crave approval, advancement, a sense of wellbeing through success. In effect they make work an idol that they look to for life, but end up neglecting partners, children, community, friendships, and character development, resulting in a degraded life.

What about people who effectively worship their emotions? They trust that their emotions always tell them the truth about what's happening. If they're scared, it's because there's danger out there. If they're angry, then someone has done them wrong. Emotions are God given to serve us, but emotions can be distorted and give false information, and if we allow them to boss our lives, it will only cause us trouble and diminish our lives. Think of the person who hides themselves at home out of fear, or the person who ever fights the world, convinced they're always being wronged. Worshipping emotions doesn't bring life!

The ancients often worshiped a pantheon of gods. In like fashion we moderns worship individualized complex structures of greater and lesser 'gods'.

Even when we do begin to worship the true God through faith in JESUS CHRIST, we don't automatically stop all idol worship. Breaking down embedded idol worship patterns will be a lifelong task that we engage in, with the critical help of the HOLY SPIRIT of God that comes to dwell within us when we believe in Jesus.

As we come to more and more worship God alone, we regain the dignity attached to being made in God's image. And, we experience more and more, the wonderful life God has for us.

Come to Jesus! Let go of your idols. Life awaits.



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