

Idolatry

(1 John 5:21)

- Introduction:
1. God is a jealous God (2 Cor. 11:2), who will not tolerate rivals (Mt. 6:33).
 2. In the past, one of the things that plagued humanity was their willingness to engage in all forms of idolatry.
 3. While many may think idolatry is to be relegated to our unenlightened ancestors, we should carefully note that the same idols that were worshiped by our ancestors, are still being worshiped today.
 4. Let's identify some ancient idols, who are worshiped by modern man.

I. The False God - Molech

- A. Molech was the god of the children of Ammon (1 Kings 11:7).
- B. Molech worship was prohibited by God but was practiced by the children of Israel (Leviticus 18:21; 1 Kings 11:7).
- C. Molech is still worshiped today, in a much more sanitized way.
 1. Abortion (Exodus 21:22-23; Proverbs 6:16-19).
 2. Lack of discipline and upbringing (Ephesians 6:4).

II. The False God(ess) - Aphrodite

- A. Aphrodite was the Greek goddess of love whose temple was in Corinth.
 1. Her temple was situated atop Acro-Corinth.
 2. Over 1000 prostitutes were employed in this temple.
- B. Sexual immorality remains the "god" of many today.
 1. (2 Peter 2:14) Eyes full of adultery.
 2. (1 Corinthians 6:16; 2 Timothy 2:22) Flee sexual immorality.
 3. (Hebrews 13:4) fornicators and adulterers, God will judge.

III. The False God - Hermes

- A. (Acts 14:11-18).
- B. Hermes was the Greek messenger god.
- C. Many seem to be willing to worship the messenger as much as they are God.
 1. (1 Corinthians 4:6).
 2. (1 Kings 13:18; 1 Peter 4:11).
 3. (Romans 3:4) Let God be true...

- Conclusion:
1. Idolatry is not something that can be relegated to our unenlightened past.
 2. Idolatry is still very much alive and well today.
 3. We've dressed them up, made them more sophisticated, called them by different names, but they are still the same idols our ancestors served.
 4. Just who is the "God" you are serving?