



I. WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

An idol is _____ that takes the place of the one true God in my life.

Idolatry is not only worshipping the images of false gods—but, also worshipping a

_____ image of the true God.

1. Questions to determine who or what my God really is:

- What am I passionate about?
- What do I think about most in my free time?
- How do I spend most of my time?
- How do I spend most of my money?
- Who do I turn to when I need support?
- What has ultimate authority in my life?

2. The fact is that we humans tend to create God in our _____ image.

And then we become like the gods we create and worship.

Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, “O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!” Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, “Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!” The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.

Exodus 32:4-6 (NLT)

3. Reasons idolatry is so tempting: (Adapted from Dr. Doug Stuart and Kevin DeYoung)

Idolatry...

- Guarantees results
- Is selfish
- Is easy
- Is convenient
- Is normal
- Is logical
- Is pleasing to the senses
- Is indulgent
- Is erotic

II. WHY IS IDOLATRY SO DANGEROUS?

1. Idolatry _____ God.

There's not enough room in all of heaven for you, Lord God. How could you possibly live on earth in this temple I have built?

1 Kings 8:27 (CEV)

2. Idolatry _____ God.

The real horror of idols is not merely that they give us nothing, but that they take away from us even that which we have.

Joy Davidman

3. Idolatry _____ God.

For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NLT)

4. Idolatry _____ God.

The LORD says, "All you who are thirsty, come and drink. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend your money on something that is not real food? Why work for something that doesn't really satisfy you? Listen closely to me, and you will eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the rich food that satisfies. Come to me and listen; listen to me so you may live."

Isaiah 55:1-3 (NCV)

III. HOW CAN I OVERCOME IDOLATRY AND KNOW THE TRUE GOD?

1. Great News: It is _____ to know God!

The Lord says, "Do not let a wise man brag about how wise he is. Do not let a strong man boast about how strong he is. Do not let a rich person brag about how rich he is. But here is what the one who brags should boast about. He should brag that he has understanding and knows me.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIRV)

2. I can know the real God through:

- His _____:

The truth about God is plain to them. God has made it plain. Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the qualities of God that are not seen. I'm talking about his eternal power and about the fact that he is God. Those things can be seen in what he has made. So people have no excuse for what they do. They knew God. But they didn't honor him as God. They didn't thank him. Their thinking became worthless. Their foolish hearts became dark. They claimed to be wise. But they made fools of themselves. They would rather have statues of gods than the glorious God who lives forever. Their statues of gods are made to look like people, birds, animals and reptiles... They worshiped and served created things. They didn't worship the Creator. But he must be praised forever. Amen.

Romans 1:19-25 (NIRV)

All I have seen teaches me to trust the creator for all I have not seen.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

- His _____:

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

- His _____:

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NIV)

No one has ever seen God. God's only Son, the one who is closest to the Father's heart, has made him known.

John 1:18 (GWT)

Jesus answered... "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father..."

John 14:9 (NCV)

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

Colossians 1:15 (NLT)

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

Colossians 2:9 (NLT)

Answer Key: anything, false, own, limits, conceals, distorts, confines, possible, creation, Word, Son