

Keep Heart

Keep Your Heart from Idols: Jeremiah 10:1-11

Read Jeremiah 10:1-11 together:

Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. ² Thus says the LORD: “Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.” There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might. Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you. They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men. But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earthquakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. Thus shall you say to them: “The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”

Forgotten First Love

- ? Describe the intoxicating feeling of a first love. What do you miss most about your initial discovery that “changed your life?” If it truly is only experienced in a series of firsts, why are we so drawn to experience it again? Is it possible for a long-term commitment to burn as hot as the feelings expressed in a first love? Why or why not?
- ? The object of an idol is not necessarily a bad thing. What turns it into a sinful destruction and what are the warning signs of that dangerous turn?
- ? In Romans 1:25, it says, “because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!” Why would one make such an exchange, and what leads to the exchange of a diamond for a piece of coal?

An IDOL

Anything – a person, experience, object, goal – that promises me life on my own terms, without God’s help

St. Augustine

Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee

How Idols work:

1. My Idols promise quick satisfaction for my appetites.
 - ? What’s wrong with quick access to the desires that were placed there by the creator Himself?
 - ? How does God become *unnecessary* when I have quick access to my idols?
2. My Idols provide tangible security for my deepest longings.
 - ? Both ‘faith in Christ and destructive idols’ promise satisfaction and security. Why would God make us wait for these since it’s in the waiting where we fail the most?

Idols Thrive in Deception

One sign of a snake bite is that you cannot feel. You're numb. You're not seeing.

Idol Locator:

Things that have so much power that they govern your daily life.

Answer these questions for yourself and not for your neighbor.

1. If I only had more _____, I would be satisfied
2. I've tried, but I just can't stop _____ (an addiction)
3. I wouldn't know who I am without _____ (What do you fear losing the most?)
4. If anyone knew my secret, I would die. (Skeletons in the closet)

? How do idols threaten with fear? Why do they have so much power over you?

? Idols leave their mark. How do idols all but destroy your identity?

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Little children keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 4:20-21

Taking the Ax to the Idols

1. Recognize the voice

- Where am I most fearful? Where do I feel the most shame? Where am I disobeying God in ways I never would have in the past?

2. Repent

- Turn and run to grace. Continually!
 - Why do we need to continually run to grace for the same thing? Aren't we just abusing grace as it was never meant to be used? Why or why not? Compare, contrast and harmonize Romans 6:1-4 with Romans 7:21-24.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

*³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. **Ro 6:1-4***

*So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. **Romans 7:21-24***

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. **Phil 2:5-11***

3. Replace

- Don't study the anatomy of the idol. Worship the Majesty of the Lord most high.
 - Why is it so dangerous to continually study why you fell to a particular idol? Wouldn't it be wise to study what it was that caused you to fail? Why or why not?