



Lesson 16: Keep Yourself From Idols Pt.1 / Text: 1 John 5:18-21

Message Focus: Defining and defeating idolatry.

Read 1 John 5:18-21

Intro: The Holy Spirit inspired John to close this precious little epistle with a very clear, direct admonition, namely to KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS. This study is designed to help you do just that.

An IDOL is anything or anyone that is worshipped as God, or instead of God. It can be a person, image, career, hobby, etc. It is anything/anyone that hinders you from giving your full devotion and worship to God.

1. Put aside the biblical description, given above, for a moment. What was your idea of an idol before you became a Christian?

A.

2. In the Old Testament, we are given a fairly broad description of one particular form of idols. What instructions are given in regards to idols in each of the following verses?

Leviticus 26:1

A.

Deuteronomy 4:15-24

A.

3. Given what we've learned thus far, what would you say are the most prevalent idols in our day?

A.

Why would most people deny that these people/things really are idols?

A.

4. During the writing of the New Testament, pagan worship was rampant. This worship included many false gods (*images/idols*) that were believed to have power over nature and humans. The apostle Paul had an interesting discussion on Mars Hill, in Athens, with a mixed group made up of Jews and Gentiles (*Read Acts 17:16-34*). What caused a reaction in Paul in Acts 17:16? Why do you believe he reacted this way?

A.

What did he and didn't he do as a result? (*Acts 17:17*)

A.

5. What words did he use to describe them in Acts 17:22? If you have access to a bible dictionary, look up the description for the key word.

A.

It is sad that lots of people are very "superstitious". Share an example of someone you know who is.

A.

6. What does Paul use to direct their attention to the "one, true God" in Acts 17:23? Why is this such an effective approach?

A.

7. What does he use to get them thinking in Acts 17:24-25? Why do you think he chose to speak about that?

A.

8. What promise does Paul hold out for those who are worshipping idols/false gods? (*Acts 17:27-28*)

A.

9. Those who heard Paul share responded in one of three ways. Two responses are found in verse 32, the other is found in verse 34. What are they?

A.

10. Every Christian should be talking with people they know who are not worshipping God. What practical tips and takeaways can we learn from Paul's example?

A.