

**Got Questions:  
What Are Idols and How Do I Avoid Them?**

**Four Questions Regarding Idols:**

1. What Is Idolatry?
2. Why Is Idolatry Evil?
3. Why Do We Love Idols?
4. How Do I Combat Idolatry in My Heart?

**#1 What Is Idolatry?**

**Acts 17:29b – 30**

**29b** we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

**30** The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent

**Daniel 5:23** but you have lifted up yourself against the Lord of heaven. And the vessels of his house have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your ways, you have not honored.

**Idol:** anything that we rely wholeheartedly on in place of the true and living God.

**#2 Why Is Idolatry Evil?**

**Exodus 20:3**

**3** “You shall have no other gods before me.

**Deuteronomy 6:4 - 5**

**4** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

**5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

**Monotheism:** the belief that there is only one God.

**Exodus 20:4 - 5**

**4** “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

**5a** You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God

**Syncretism:** combining different beliefs and merging diverse practices in attempts to create a new superior system of faith.

**Reductionism:** efforts to reduce the infinitude(immeasurable) of God into something finite(measurable).

**Psalms 96:4 - 5**

**4** For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods.

**5** For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**Got Questions:  
What Are Idols and How Do I Avoid Them?**

**Psalm 115:1 - 8**

**1** Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

**2** Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

**3** Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.

**4** Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

**5** They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.

**6** They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.

**7** They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

**8** Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

### **#3 Why Do We Love Idols?**

**Colossians 3:5 – 6**

**5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

**Ephesians 5:5 – 6**

**5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

**6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience

Good questions to ask about anything in our lives:

1. What is its function in your life?
2. How much time do you honestly give to it?
3. What would you lose if you didn't have it?
4. Is it helpful to your relationship with God or hindering to your relationship with God?

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:12** "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

### **#4 How Do I Combat Idolatry in My Heart?**

**Psalm 73:25 – 28**

**25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

**26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

**27** For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

**28** But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

**Psalm 139:23 – 24**

**23** Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

**24** And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!