

LOVE, WORSHIP, IDOLS & HABITS

OPENING QUESTION: Does having knowledge about something always change our practices?

- ▶ What if we don't need to _____ more of the right things? What if we need to _____ more of the right things?
 - > We are driven by something more than our beliefs.
 - Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1; Psalm 84:2; Matthew 5:6
 - > We are made to worship, and at the heart of our worship is what we love.
 - > We don't need less knowledge or to believe less but we need _____ knowledge and belief.
 - James 2:19; Mark 12:29-31; John 21:15-17

Question → *What do you believe love?*

- > What we love becomes an object of worship for us, so if we love the _____ things, we will _____ the wrong things.

TODAY'S TEXT: 1Thessalonians 1:1-10

*** Key verse: vs. 9b - "They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ..." ***

OUR FAITH IN GOD IS KNOWN WHEN

I. WE _____ FROM IDOLS

- A. The Thessalonians
 - > They worshiped idols.
 - > Leaving their idols behind was a huge deal.
 - _____ for them
 - noticeable to others
 - It meant they were not participating in the very basic and _____ acts of their culture.
- B. Us Canadians
 - > Every culture has idols.

- Every person in our society is trained through _____ and shared _____ to love and worship those idols.

The Challenge: When idol worship is a part of the culture in which we are immersed it is really hard to see the idols as idols.

- > Sometimes the things that constantly and completely surround us are the hardest to _____.
 - 1 Peter 5:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:6

C. How do we begin to turn from these idols?

- > We need to identify our idols.
 - We need to get brutally honest with ourselves.
- > Then we actually need to turn from our idols.
 - It doesn't do us any good to recognise idols but keep serving them.
- > It takes _____ on our part
 - Colossians 3 – "... set your hearts ... put to death ... rid yourselves ... you have taken off ... its practices ... put on the new self... clothe yourselves... put on love"

OUR FAITH IN GOD IS KNOWN

II. WHEN WE SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD

But how do we replace idol worship with worship of the living and true God?

- A. HOLY _____
 - > We acknowledge and _____ the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. • vv. 5-8
 - > The Holy Spirit convicts, enables, fills, teaches, and reminds us of Jesus words

We are called to participate in this work through developing ...

- B. HOLY _____
 - > Our habits give the Holy Spirit a _____ to work with.

- makes our lives accessible to what He wants to do.

These habits are developed through

1. _____ • vs. 6; 1 Cor. 4:16; 1 Cor. 11:1
 - Faith in God is not a solitary pursuit.
 - Who are we imitating? Are we imitable?

2. _____
 - the things we do over and over train our hearts.
 - our life's rituals will either train our hearts to love God or to love something else.
 - The point of experience gained through repetition is for our responses to be innate or second nature.

Colossians 3:14 – Note the word VIRTUES.

- > A virtue is something that comes from _____ us that causes us to respond rightly.
 - not natural to us
 - they are learned and _____.
- > Through imitation and repetition, and with the Holy Spirit working in us, these virtues become a part of our spiritual nature.

CONCLUSION:

What we _____ matters more than what we _____.

What we worship is _____ by what we love.

Worship is going on all around us, and we are _____ in and shaped by the worship practices of our world.

We need to _____ the idols (objects of worship) in our culture, and then boldly _____ from them.

We serve the true and living God by welcoming the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and developing _____ through imitation and repetition.

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

1 Thessalonians 1:9b – “They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ...”

Opening Discussion: Have a conversation about idols.

- > Talk about what idols might look like in our culture or society.
- > Discuss idols that we might see in the church and idols you have struggled with in your own life.

Read COLOSSIANS 3:1-14.

Together, review this portion of scripture and make note of all the instructions that might help us turn from our idols. (i.e. “Put to death” – vs.5; and “rid yourselves” – vs. 8; etc.) Then discuss ways that each of us can follow those instructions (practical, daily habits).

Read verses 12 – 14 again.

Discuss how we “clothe ourselves”.

- > What kind of habits does this involve?
- > What does having a habit of forgiveness look like?
- > How does love “bind” all the virtues “together in perfect unity”?

Pray for each other as we turn from the idols of our world to serve the true and living God. Be sure to pray for any needs or concerns that people in your group may have.