

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship
January 10, 2024 | “Idols” | 1 John 5:21

Three Diagnostics for Discerning the Idols in your Heart:

- 1) Anything that _____ your thought-life more than God is an idol
- 2) Anything that _____ your affections over and above God is an idol
- 3) Anything that is _____ for your personal fulfillment other than God is an idol

Eight “good things” that can become “gods”:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

Why did John finish this letter with a statement about idols (1 John 5:21)? How is that different and/or similar to other books of the NT, especially Paul’s letters? Is this statement an apt way to close this letter in light of what John has written for five chapters? How does it relate to its immediate context (5:18-21) and the broader context of the entire letter?

Idolatry is everywhere. People make gods out of everything and anything. List 8-10 “gods” that people worship other than the true God of the Universe. Which of those “gods” are Christians tempted to worship?

Tim Keller says, “An idol is anything in your life that is so central to your life that you can’t have a meaningful life if you lose it.” Is there anything in your life right now that fits that description?

Ask yourself these diagnostic questions: What do I daydream the most about? What do I treasure the most? What do I most passionately long for? Where do I run for comfort other than God? What makes me the happiest? What has caused me to be angry with God if it is ever threatened? Whose approval do I seek the most? What do I fantasize the most about having and what is my biggest nightmare if I ever lose it?

Read Acts 19:21-41. Do you think Demetrius and the craftsmen were more concerned about their pocketbook or their goddess’ reputation? Why? How sincere do you think their worship of Artemis was? How sincere do you think the worship of the Ephesians and the other Asians was? What does this passage teach us about idolatry and the hold that it has over people’