



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis
 March 09, 2008
What Lies Beneath?
 (Getting to the Root of my Problems)

“Idolatry”

What’s wrong with the human race? Why are we so messed up? Our Problem is sin! Sin is giving my heart to anyone or anything more than God, which is idolatry.

Exodus 20:1-8

Why Do I Give My Heart to Idols?

1) I was created for covenant with God.

V2 “I am the Lord your God...” (Gen. 15)
 Covenant: A love relationship based on a binding commitment.

2) If I don’t give my heart to God I will inevitably give it to other gods.

V3 “You shall have no other gods before me.”
 (Rom. 1:19-23; John 4:1-42)

How Does Idolatry Work?

V4 “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything...”

1) Desire: Acceptance, Security & Significance.

Eccles. 3:11 He (God) has also set eternity in the hearts of men.

2) Deceived: Exchange the truth of God for a lie.

Romans 1:23 They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

3) Dominated: Whatever I live for will ultimately control me.

John 8:34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

4) Despair: Much of my pain and problems in life come from the giving of my heart to something or someone other than God. (Isa. 44; Jonah 2:8)

Psalm 16:4 The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.
 Jeremiah 2:5 This is what the Lord says: “What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

How Do I Get Rid of My Idols?

1) See and be seized by God’s passion for you.

V5 I am a jealous God... (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 John 3:1)

2) Repent of whatever draws your heart away from God.

V7 You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God... (Matt. 22:37-38; Rom. 12:11; Heb. 12:1-2)

- ✓ What am I most afraid of?
- ✓ What do I long for most passionately?
- ✓ Where do I run for comfort?
- ✓ What do I complain about the most?
- ✓ What angers me the most?
- ✓ What makes me happiest?
- ✓ How do I explain myself to other people?
- ✓ What has caused me to be angry with God?
- ✓ What do I brag about?
- ✓ What do I want to have more than anything else?
- ✓ Who or what do I sacrifice the most for in my life?
- ✓ If I could change one thing in my life what would that be?
- ✓ Whose approval am I seeking?
- ✓ What do I want to control/master?

3) Do those things that increase your appetite for God. V8 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

(1 Cor. 9: 24-27; 1 Tim. 4:7-8; 1 Pet. 2:2) Idols can’t be uprooted only replaced. You can only expel one affection with another more powerful one.

Matthew 13:44 The Parable of the Hidden Treasure.

March 16 “Repentance” (Psalm 51)

BEYOND NORMAL

(The life you were meant to live)

March 23(Easter) “**RESURRECTION!**” (Phil. 3:1-11)
 March 30 “**LOVE**” (1 Cor. 13:1-13)
 April 6 “**JOY**” (John 16:16-33)
 April 13 “**PEACE**” (Phil. 4:4-9)



Growing

March 9, 2008

desert breeze community church

1) How would you define idolatry? Is idolatry a serious problem in our culture today? Explain. How does idolatry relate to the last two topics we looked at in this series: distrust of God and pride?

2) Why do you think people give their hearts to idols? What does it mean that I was created for a covenant relationship with God? What had the woman at the well given her heart to (John 4:17-18)?

3) Go through the steps of how idolatry works. What does it mean to exchange the truth of God for a lie (Rom. 1:23)? In what ways have you done this? What does it mean that whatever I live for will ultimately control me?

4) What are the end results of giving my heart to something other than God? (Ps. 16:4; Jer. 2:5; Isa. 44; Jonah 2:8) The 1st step to overcoming idolatry is to see and to be seized by God's passion for you. Explain.

5) What are the things that compete for your heart and why is it so important to know? How would you rate your appetite for God: Mild – Moderate – Hot? What are some things you can do to increase your appetite for God? Why is this your greatest defense to idolatry?