

## **Tear Down Your Idols – Taking the Sermon Home with you!**

Exodus 20:4-5 *“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them...”*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment (Ex 20:3) tells us WHO to worship. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tells us HOW to worship! While we don't keep miniature figurines of “gods and goddesses” on our fireplace mantles anymore, that **doesn't** mean that we don't have our own “idols.”

5<sup>th</sup> century Saint Augustine observed that: “Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used or using anything that ought to be worshiped.” An idol, than, is anything that we allow to replace the true God.

Spend some time prayerfully asking these questions:

1) Is there any created thing that I am worshipping (trusting in, can't live without, etc.)?

2) Are there ways that I am trying to “use” God (get God to “do” something for me)?

The late Dr. David Seamands wrote that “Idolatry is not simply the worship of those things outside of ourselves that we create with our own hands. Idolatry is also those false and unworthy conceptions of God (that) we hold and worship.” Jesus tells Phillip that when we see Him (Jesus) we've seen the Father (JN 14:9). Look up the following passages. Based upon what Jesus does or says, what is God like?

- Luke 15:1-7      - Matthew 23:37      - Mark 10:13-16      - John 13:5-17      - Matthew 9:35-38

- John 2:13-17      - Luke 19:1-10      - Luke 10:38-42      - John 14:15      - Matthew 23:27-28

Tim Keller, in his book Counterfeit Gods, suggests that “The true god of your heart is what your thoughts effortlessly go to when there is nothing else demanding your attention.”

Where do **your** thoughts go when nothing else is demanding your attention?

As a result of what you have learned by answering these questions, is there anything in your life that you need to surrender to God?