

Counterfeit Gods—Defeating the Idols that Battle for Our Hearts

“The god of Family”

David Owens

Matthew 10:37-39

12.16.18

- A. _____ if one of the best gifts that God created for us, and yet it is one of the gifts that can easily become a counterfeit God.
- B. In C.S. Lewis’ book *The Great Divorce*, we are introduced to a woman named Pam who is more interested in going to heaven to see her _____, rather than seeing _____.
- C. What we must be sure we understand is that the place that _____ has in our lives must be over and above any other, and the _____ we have for God must be first and greater than any other. (Mt. 22:37-39; Lk. 14:15-16)
- D. A good, bad example of someone who failed to overcome the god of family in his life is an OT priest named _____ (1 Samuel 2:12, 22-24; 27-30).
1. God said to him, “you honor your _____ above me.”
- E. The good example of the King of Judah named _____ (1 Kgs. 15, 2 Chron. 15).
1. He removed his _____ from her royal position, and destroyed her idols.
- F. Perhaps the greatest OT example that illustrates the battle of keeping God on the throne over and above family is the story of the testing of _____. (Gen. 22)
- G. What God had asked of Abraham on Mount Moriah, but did not finally require, He was willing to do Himself, because He loves you and me that much. (Rom. 8:32)
- H. Questions for Introspection:
1. When it comes to your _____ and sense of _____, are you looking to God first for those things, or are you looking first to a spouse, children, parents or friends?
2. Whom are you more interested in keeping _____, your parents, spouse, children, friends, or God?
3. If there is a _____ between what God wants you to do or what your parents, spouse, children or friends want you to do, whom do you _____?
4. Are you trying to get from _____ something that you should only be getting from _____?
- I. When we love God firsts and most, it doesn’t mean we don’t _____ our families, it just means we love them _____.

The god of family painted a beautiful picture. It showed a dinner table at Thanksgiving, with all the faces looking hungrily toward a baked turkey. Parents, children, and grandparents were all there, and it was so clear they loved one another.

Who wouldn’t respond to such a scene? It’s what we all want. The god of family may have been the most deceiving of all the false gods, because he seemed so decent and proper. He offered something that is already on of God’s greatest gifts. But he offered a distorted version of it.

What he offered was not truly a family but a cocoon, a place to shut the world out. He offered obsessive relationships, in which everyone must play god to someone else. He called all of it love, but in retrospect, it looked more like desperation. We made demands of our marriages until we exhausted them.

Jesus showed us what family was supposed to be. He helped us understand that all of the relationships inside the home are reflections of what he is to us. It’s the love of Christ that teaches us how to love each other. We said, “Family is everything,” but it wasn’t until Jesus was our everything that we discovered everything family can be. (Kyle Idleman, “Jesus My Everything”)

Answer Key: A. Family. B. son, God. C. God, love. D. Eli. D.1. sons. E. Asa. E.1. grandmother. F. Abraham. H.1. happiness, well-being. H.2. happy. H.3. conflict, obey. H.4. others, God. I. love, differently.