

“Idols don’t just appear in our lives;
they are formed one _____ at a time.”

Three Traps of Idol Making

- We want total _____ of everything and everyone in our lives.
- We want _____ in an uncertain world.
- We want something we can physically _____ and emotionally _____.

Result: We trade trust for perceived _____.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Psalms 37:5 (TPT)

Give God the right to direct your life, and as you trust him along the way, you’ll find he pulled it off perfectly!

QUESTION:

What _____ have I taken control from God and need to surrender it back to Him?

2

E _____ something or someone to ultimate importance above God.

“Idols are often good things we make too _____.”

Acts 17:21 (NLT)

It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.

Romans 1:25 (NLT)

They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Exodus 20:3 (NLT)

“You must not have any other god but me.”

**A good thing becomes a “God thing”
when it becomes a “_____” thing.**

QUESTION:

What has become too _____ in my life?
What do I feel I can’t live without?

3

A _____ my identity to something other than God.

“This is where idols go from something I value to what actually _____ me.”

Acts 17:22-23a (NLT)

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’”

Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.

“My identity is not in what I have, who I know, or what I do, but in Who I _____ to eternally.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

QUESTION:

What am I using to define my _____?

4

R _____ on something else for what only God can give.

Acts 17:23b-25, 27, 29 (NLT)

“This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about. He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need...

His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us...

And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.”

Acts 17:30-34 (NIV)

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

I build idols when I depend on something else for:

- _____
- **Security**
- _____
- **Significance**

Psalm 62:5-7 (NLT)

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

QUESTION:

What or who am I relying on to _____ me together?



IDOL MAKERS

April 11 & 12, 2026

Exodus 32:4 (NLT)

Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, “O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Every culture has idols

- **Ancient cultures carved them from wood or stone.**
- **Modern cultures build them out of success, money, relationships, comfort, and approval.**

“The materials have changed... but the human heart hasn’t.”

Jeremiah 17:9 (TPT)

There is nothing more deceitful than the heart of man; who can understand it? Man’s heart is sick, in need of healing.

Acts 17:16 (NLT)

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city.

“Idols are formed whenever trust in God is replaced by trust in anything else.”

I TEAR GOD DOWN AND BECOME AN IDOL MAKER WHEN I:

1

Trade trust in God for personal control.

Acts 17:18 (NLT)

He also had a debate with some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. When he told them about Jesus and his resurrection, they said, “What’s this babbler trying to say with these strange ideas he’s picked up?” Others said, “He seems to be preaching about some foreign gods.”

“Idols don’t just appear in our lives;
they are formed one decision at a time.”

Three Traps of Idol Making

- We want total control of everything and everyone in our lives.
- We want certainty in an uncertain world.
- We want something we can physically see and emotionally feel.

Result: We trade trust for perceived control.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Psalm 37:5 (TPT)

Give God the right to direct your life, and as you trust him along the way, you’ll find he pulled it off perfectly!

QUESTION:

What area have I taken control from God and need to surrender it back to Him?

2

Elevate something or someone to ultimate importance above God.

“Idols are often good things we make too important.”

Acts 17:21 (NLT)

It should be explained that all the Athenians as well as the foreigners in Athens seemed to spend all their time discussing the latest ideas.

Romans 1:25 (NLT)

They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

Exodus 20:3 (NLT)

“You must not have any other god but me.”

**A good thing becomes a “God thing”
when it becomes a “must have” thing.**

QUESTION:

What has become too important in my life?
What do I feel I can’t live without?

3

Attach my identity to something other than God.

“This is where idols go from something I value to what actually defines me.”

Acts 17:22-23a (NLT)

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: “Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: ‘To an Unknown God.’”

Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

Obviously, I’m not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ’s servant.

“My identity is not in what I have, who I know, or what I do, but in Who I belong to eternally.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

QUESTION:

What am I using to define my worth?

4

Rely on something else for what only God can give.

Acts 17:23b-25, 27, 29 (NLT)

“This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I’m telling you about. He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need...

His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us...

And since this is true, we shouldn’t think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.”

Acts 17:30-34 (NIV)

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, “We want to hear you again on this subject.” At that, Paul left the Council. Some of the people became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris, and a number of others.

I build idols when I depend on something else for:

- Peace
- Security
- Satisfaction
- Significance

Psalm 62:5-7 (NLT)

Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken. My victory and honor come from God alone. He is my refuge, a rock where no enemy can reach me.

QUESTION:

What or who am I relying on to hold me together?