

Idolatry - A Work of the Flesh **Galatians 5:19-21**

Idolatry has always been a transgression of God's covenant Ex 20:1-5

Heathen idols were spurious rivals to the One True God

Jehovah has always condemned idolatry in strongest terms Jer 3:6-9

Idolatry takes various forms, including worship of

inanimate objects, such as stones, trees, rivers, etc.

the celestial bodies: the sun, moon and stars

animals, such as alligators, oxen, snakes, etc.

the forces of nature, such as wind, rain, fire, etc.

heroes and/or deceased ancestors

ideal or abstraction, such as courage, justice, love, lust, etc

Jehovah God through images or symbols or image itself

Bible refers to idol worship as an empty thing

Contrasts great Jehovah with powerless idolatry Isa 40:10-31; 44:9-28

Paul declared Unknown God to idolatrous Athenians Act 17:16-31

We must not waver between contradictory, mutually-exclusive opinions Josh 24:15; 1Kin 18:21; Mt 6:24

Idolatry Is A Manifestation Of The Lust Of The Flesh

Shameful & degrading practice, involving cruelty, carnality, corruption

Dishonor comes to those who reject knowledge of God Rom 1:18-32

Base sensuality is fruit 2Chr 28:1-4; Isa 57:3-5; Jer 2:20; 3:6-9; 1Pet 4:3

False religions of today also appeal to lust of the flesh 2Pet 2:1-3

Idolatry Is A Manifestation Of The Lust Of The Eyes

In vain attempt to provide a physical likeness of Jehovah, idolatry distorts the very concept of God Deut 4:15-20

How can material adequately represent One that is Immaterial?

How can temporal represent One who is Eternal?

How can lifeless represent One who is the Giver of life?

How can powerless represent the One who is Omnipotent?

How can unknowing represent the One that is Omniscient?

How can a mere statue, occupying a mere speck of time & space, represent the One who is Omnipresent?

No physical object can capture the likeness of a spiritual God

Attempt will distort God, & hence falsify truth Isa 40:18-26; Rom 1:22-23

Furthermore, pagan gods were too small, considered regional deities

One worshiped god of hills, another bowed down to god of valley

In contrast, Jehovah is Lord over all the earth 1Kin 20:22-30

Men may no longer bow before graven images, but idolatry remains

Covetousness is idolatry Eph 5:5; Col 3:5

Materialism is modern manifestation of OT idolatry Mt 6:24,33

Anything that comes between us and God becomes an idol, a false god

It could be things, work, accomplishments, people or activities

Lust of eyes is still a favorite appeal of false teachers 2Pet2:1-3,12-16

Idolatry Is A Manifestation Of The Pride Of Life

Human arrogance, human wisdom instead of divine revelation

Scriptures affirm man is made in image of God Gen 1:27; Psa 8:3-9

In contrast, idolatry would make God in the image of man, or some other physical object Rom 1:19-23

The God of heaven is the living and true God 1Thes 1:9

Idols profit not, but Jehovah God is in his holy temple Hab 2:18-20

Idols are impotent, powerless, but Jehovah is to be glorified Psa 115:1-9

We should oppose idolatry & all false religion with every fiber of being

Instead of manifesting a spirit of compromise, let us remove idolatries from the earth Ex 34:11-17; Deu 12:1-4

No quarter may be extended to religious error 2Cor 6:14-18; 10:3-6

Compromise is not an option Rev 2:14,20-23; 1Cor 10:14; 1Jhn 5:21

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