

Gospel Identity 7

You Are What You Worship – Serge/Saiger

In this session we need to come to terms with our idols, no other person can truly get rid of your dependence on idols besides you. Recognize that you are not alone in your struggle, and that bringing them to the light with someone you trust is the only way to conquer your idols and put God back in the seat of worship in your life.

We're going to take some time to identify what idols may be plaguing your life.

Fear, trusts, and desires are all things that can rule our lives instead of Jesus—or can push us towards other idols. So that's where we will start. Check any items that you feel relate to your life. Then come together to discuss the questions.

I Fear...

- People's rejection, attacks, or control
- Losing control
- Losing, or not gaining, a reputation
- Someone in charge of me getting angry with me
- Lack of Money
- Going Crazy
- Middle age
- My sin coming out in the open
- The future
- Sickness
- Old age
- My friends or my crush rejecting me
- Old age
- Death
- Failure
- A friend telling on me

I Trust...

- Drinking
(Escape frustration and boredom)
- Sex/pornography
(Pleasure, relief from cursed world)
- My own resources
- Security/peace
- Food
(Relief from boredom, health, pleasure, peace)
- My gifts/abilities
- Control/order
- Some idealized figure
(Athlete, pastor, musician)
- Luxuries
- Sickness
(Control, attention, responsibilities)
- My job
(Security, status, financial gain)
- Status
- Money
- Pleasure
(Food, drink, drugs, sex, fun)
- Physical appearance
(Fitness, fashion, beauty)

I Desire...

- To feel good
(Eat drink, drugs, sex, TV)
- Freedom from financial problems
(Which most of you are)
- Adoration/recognition/success
- Pleasure/comfort
- Peace in home
- Love from others
- Any one of God's blessings!!
- That my crush and friends might love me

- That my life situation be different
- Material goods
- A nice house
- Knowledge

- Approval
- Health
- Affirmation

So come back together as a group and let's talk about one of these that you may have already been through in your life. Physical appearance.

1. Thinking about the idol of Physical appearance, how do you know when it's become an idol in your life? What would the evidence be that appearance has created an excessive desire, or trust, or fear within you?

2. As much as you are willing to, go around to each person and share another item that you checked off. What's the evidence that this has become or can become an idol in your life?

Often "harmless" sins on the surface hide much larger idols. For example, behind that juicy gossip may be an idol of reputation, a love of status, or a desire for revenge. One reason we need to recognize our deeper sins is to truly root out the problem in our life and make sure it doesn't come back!

Pick two or more of these verses and then ask questions 3-5 after each one.

Please Read: Genesis 20:1-13; 1 Samuel 15:10-24; Acts 5:1-11; Mark 14:66-72; Galatians 2:11-14.

3. What is the surface sin here? Or what is the sin everyone sees?
4. What pushed those in your passage to commit the sin?
5. Do you see any hidden idols in their hearts, that this sin reveals?

Surface sins call our attention to what's really going on inside us. When we have a wandering eye, this should be a red flag to a lusty heart. Boasting can be a red flag of the idol of self-glorification. Anger is another red flag that alerts us to many failed idols in your life. When we trust idols and not God, sin runs rampant in our lives and is made evident by many red flags!

6. Do you have any behavior in your life that is revealing of *your* idols? Discuss this if you feel comfortable discussing it.

Weekly Challenge...

- Stop lying to yourself. Or rather stop relying on yourself to identify the sins and idols in your life. Seek out a friend whom you trust to be extremely honest with you about the idols in your life. Don't try to defend any of them; just listen. The truth may hurt sometimes. But having someone come in and let you know what they see going on, it may be the step you need to start kicking those idols out of your life and start relying on God. If you are done early then start this one right now. Read **1 Corinthians 10:14** also.