

## IDOLATRY

1. Definition: Idolatry is the blind adoration or devotion to something in creation and can include philosophies, religious ideals, religious objects, animals, or any manufactured image.
  - Idolatry results when a person is negative to the existence of God at the point of God-consciousness then substitutes devotion to the creature rather than the Creator.
  - It a love towards something, someone, or total occupation with something other than God. Romans 1:21-24.
  - It is a forbidden love relationship because God has not given you permission to love that false god, false prophet, false religious system, or creature.
  - Love towards God is to be directed to His person, His essence, His Word, His Son, and His divine plan.
2. Idolatry is forbidden by God: Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 6:14; Exodus 23:24; Deuteronomy 4:28, 5:7, 7:16, 8:19.
3. Idolatry is considered spiritual adultery, Jeremiah 3:8-10; Ezekiel 16:22-24; 23:24-30; Revelation 17:1-5.
4. Idolatry in the mind precedes the practice of idolatry, Judges 2:10-13; Ezekiel 14:7.
5. Idolatry is associated with greed and sexual sins, Ezekiel 22:3-16; Ephesians 5:5; 1 Corinthians 6:9.
6. Demons function through idols and the practice of idolatry to seduce their arrogant worshippers, Zechariah 10:2; 1 Corinthians 10:19-20.
7. Idolatry can produce psychotic conditions in the soul, Jeremiah 50:38, especially where demon influence is present.
  - A. Idolatry produces weariness, anxieties, confusion, emotional imbalance, lack of reason, fear, neurosis, paranoia, and psychosis.
  - B. Giving God the credit for something He has not done is a result of mental idolatry. Example: “God blessed our church ( a Christ denying cult) with new members this year.” God will not accept praise for evil activity.

8. Under a family curse many of the kings of Judah believed that the idol temples in the land brought “good luck.”
  - A. Solomon, Rehoboam and Abijah believed this.
  - B. Abijah’s son, Asa, removed idol temples and broke the family curse, 2 Chronicles 15:8.
  - C. No one liked what he did and everyone complained about it, even the priests complained but Asa stuck with his guns for he was occupied with Christ.
  
9. When idol worship controls a nation, men become morally and spiritually weak so women have a greater influence on the government.
  - The government responds to these matriarchs and new laws are made to accommodate them.
  - The weak men go along with them and liberalism takes a giant step towards destroying the Laws of Divine Establishment and the Divine Institutions.
  - For example, the death penalty is removed because it is seen as “cruel and inhuman punishment.”
  - Strong law enforcement becomes non-existent and there is coddling of criminals.
  - Victims rights are ignored while the “rights of the criminals” are promoted.
  
10. Idolatry, therefore, causes a nation to be judged through the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle of discipline. Isaiah 2:8; 18-20; 21:9; 36:18-20; 37:12-19; Jeremiah 2:27-30; 3:6-11; 7:17-20; 17:1-4; Ezekiel 6:4-6.
  - Five cycles of discipline upon a nation are explained in Leviticus 26.