

COUNTERFEIT GODS

WEEK 2



The Sanctuary Fellowship
Spring 2023



Why do we create or seek out idols?

- * We are hard-wired to need God but also cross-wired to desperately live life without God.**
- * We have a real or a perceived need.**
- * We lie to ourselves or are lied to that this will give us meaning, fulfill us, bring us joy, etc.**

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“Bread is important here. Satan, after all, could have referenced virtually anything that could have provided basic nutrients. ... But when the unclean spirit mentioned “loaves of bread,” he was pointing to something familiar, tapping into what psychologists call a trigger for the appetites. ... As Satan spoke, Jesus might have even imagined it there before him, the sensation of breaking open the crust to the hot yeasty stuff inside....(cont.)

“This is where Eve fell, and Adam right behind her. Satan suggested, back in the garden, that somehow God was withholding good from the humans, something that, in fact, would make them like him. Eve started to see God not as Father but as rival, and that’s when she struck out to grab what he was holding back from her. Her appetites, Satan said, were a more reliable guide to what she needed than the word of her God.”

Russell Moore, Tempted and Tried

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

1- What are some of the lies we might tell ourselves if we are lonely?

2- What kind of idols might loneliness cause us to run to or create?

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A major cause of idolatry is the feeling that it will help someone escape pain and replace it with pleasure.

To reverse this pattern:

- discover what you're escaping from

What am I running from? What am I afraid of?

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Is loneliness a sin?

Is loneliness a result of sin?

Does anything good come from loneliness?

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Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

What might that text have to say to us about loneliness?

How loneliness can lead us into sin:

Impatience- we settle for less; we make poor decisions; we rush in to more harm; this does not force God's hand to take away our loneliness (entitlement)

Lack of faith- stop trusting God for his timing/ways; stop believing in God's goodness; cycle: we start to doubt God, we allow a small thing in, we experience failure, we blame God for not providing, we doubt God, we allow a small thing in, etc, etc (David- in the Spring when kings went to war)

False sense of injustice- flows from the malady of comparison; God is somehow not being "fair"; we "deserve it" so we rush in to bad solutions

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What from this chapter spoke to you most? Where did you need some clarity?

“To practice idolatry is to be a slave.” Agree/Disagree?
Explain

What idols are you passing on? (as opposed to the idea of “generational sins/curses)

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Small Group Discussion:

#s 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

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“Dear Lord, help me to make you my new habit. Help me to run to you so that I might taste your sweetness and allow you to satisfy all my needs. Let me know and be convinced that no human can fulfill my need for love, acceptance and belonging the way that you can.
In Jesus satisfying name, Amen”

-adapted from The 40 Day Sugar Fast