

Alleluia

Dove

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Could I Be An Idolater?

By Tod Densmore



During our community retreat we heard much about unfaithfulness and idolatry in the novel Hosea written by Larry Christensen. The story of Hosea's marriage to Gomer is an analogy of God's relationship to Israel. The story equates the unfaithfulness of Gomer to the idolatry of the people of Israel. Just as Gomer allows many men to know her, God's people Israel have a long history of worshipping false gods.

This graphic image of marital infidelity equated with idolatry allows one to understand the offense God takes to the sin of idolatry. Idolatry is a big enough deal that it made number one on the list of top ten things God considers important (in this case as something thou shalt not do). If it's that big a deal, than maybe it's worth reflecting on what idolatry is and how I might be offending the Lord by this sin.

The dictionary definition of idolatry is:

1. The worship of a physical object as a god.
2. Immoderate attachment or devotion to something.

I would venture to say that not many of you reading this article could relate to definition 1. I'm not aware of any child sacrifices to Baal or ritual orgies honoring Astarte, to promote wealth and fertility, happening in Faith Village. Definition 2 probably begins to hit closer to home and I encourage you to do some soul-searching and seeking the Holy Spirit to show you where you might have an immoderate attachment or devotion to something. I think I have an understanding which could help in your endeavor to discern if the sin of idolatry is operating in your life.

Exodus 34:14 (NRSV) says, "For you shall worship no other god, because the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." We know that God is all good, so the use of the name Jealous in this scripture must be good too. What is God jealous for? What belongs to God? What do I owe God? My understanding is this; if God takes the name Jealous for Himself, in regards to idolatry, then one could define idolatry as giving something which belongs to God to someone or something other than God. Jealousy is only

a virtue when it is in response to injustice. Which of you spouses would not take the name Jealous if what was pledged to you in matrimony was given to another? What is more unjust than idolatry? God deserves to be loved with our whole mind, heart, soul and strength. Psalm 89:14 says, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you." When we offer ourselves to Him in a divided manner we mock the foundation of His throne. Have you given that which belongs to Jealous to another? Have you kept to yourself that which belongs to Jealous? If we do not worship the Lord with everything we have, than we are in danger of being idolaters.

I encourage you to reflect specifically on your use of time, treasure and gifts. Have I used my time, treasure and gifts for the building of God's kingdom? Does my use of time, treasure and gifts give honor and glory to God? Is God jealous of my time, treasure and gifts? Do I spend enough per-

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Made for Greater Things

By Vanessa Milligan



On Thursday before our Full Community Retreat, I was driving in my car when a song by the group Mercy Me called *Beautiful* came on the radio. It said, "You were made for so much more than all of this." Then on Friday night at the retreat, Larry Christenson said that Ephesians 5 talked about coveting being idolatry. So I decided to read it. I never knew which idols I could have as a Christian since I don't worship Baal and other idols or gods that the Bible mentions. But to read Ephesians 5, and to see that coveting is idolatry, revealed to me that idolatry is something I do deal with.

Coveting is to deeply desire (want) something that belongs to someone else (that I don't have). It becomes sin when someone cannot be content with what they have to the point that they would do anything to get

what the other person has, which is an extreme case. What we may identify with is that we cannot be peaceful with the things we have here and now. I do believe it is okay to have nice things, but not to go into debt to get those things, or to think about them day and night and how I can get those things that everyone else has that I cannot be happy without.

Jesus spoke directly to this when He said not to worry about what you will eat or wear but to seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and we will have what we need. I believe what Jesus is trying to say is what Mercy Me was singing in that song I mentioned earlier, "You were made for so much more than all of this."

Our human bodies will tell us we want food, sleep, warmth, etc. These bodies pull us to the temporal, but

our spirits long for more. We are eternal beings in Christ. We truly won't be deeply satisfied with the things that our body craves. What truly fulfills us—what Jesus wanted for us to realize—is that God fashioned us for this very purpose, to be clothed with eternity, and for what is mortal/tangible to be swallowed up (2 Cor 5).

There is a tendency to get a divided heart quickly because of these mortal bodies, which can become a burden/heavy laden. To enter into a form of death, crucifixion, is to be stripped of these burdens. I believe when we fast, that is a form of crucifixion in denying the flesh. We will then give strength to the spirit.

I have always struggled with fasting all food and only drinking liquid. God's grace released me to do this, and the only thing I had for about 2.5 days was water and a little black coffee in the morning. I do not share this to boast because it was TOTALLY God who helped me. But I say it because I truly felt I was beginning to walk the fine line of entering the eternal. I had a little bit of what I believe we can have more of—a deeper awakening of an eternal perspective. I want MORE of that. I long for more of Him

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Offer Your Divided Heart to Jesus

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sonal time with God? Am I selfishly using my time or treasure? Am I using my charismatic gifts to love and witness to others? Whatever it is you are not giving to God in the manner He deserves, I beg you to repent. Remember that Jesus, your Salvation, your Redeemer and your Righteousness is sitting at the right hand of God interceding for you! Remember "steadfast love (mercy in some translations) and faithfulness go before" the Lord. The highest worship we can offer the Lord is whatever separates us from Him. Make a sweet offering of your divided heart to Jesus, your Healer. He is Jealous for you! All of you!

Psalm 89:13-16 (NRSV)

¹³ You have a mighty arm;
strong is your hand, high your right hand.

¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

¹⁵ Happy are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your countenance;

¹⁶ they exult in your name all day long,
and extol your righteousness.

Tod Densmore is a Support Group Head and serves on the Pastoral Team in the Alleluia Community. He and his wife, Andree, are both second generation members and have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia since 2000. They have three children and attend St. Joseph Catholic Church in Augusta, Georgia.

SEVEN STEPS FOR RETAINING DELIVERANCE

This information is offered as an enhancement to our season of deliverance ministry.

1. Put on the Whole Armour of God

The Christian's spiritual armour is set forth in Eph, 6:10-18, There are seven pieces of armour: (1) Loins girt about with truth, (2) The breastplate of righteousness, (3) Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, (4) The shield of faith, (5) The helmet of salvation, (6) The sword of the Spirit which is the word of God, and (7) Praying in the Spirit. Pay special attention to the "helmet of salvation" for the guarding of your thought life. Most demons seeking to re-enter assail the thoughts. Become watchful of any thoughts that could be considered negative; they are from the enemy. Separate their thoughts from your own. Refuse the thoughts they give you and replace them with positive spiritual thoughts. (See: Phil. 4:8.) Resist the devil at the first sign of his attack.

2. Confess Positively

Negative confessions characterize demonic influence. Positive confession is faith expressed. Confess what God's Word says. Any other confession will open the door for the enemy.

"For verily I say unto you, That Whosoever shall SAY unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he SAITH shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he SAITH." (Mark 11:23)

3. Stay in the Scripture

Jesus withstood Satan's temptation by using Scripture. The Word is a mirror to the soul (James 1 :22-25); it is a lamp unto the feet for guidance (Psalm 119:105); it is a cleansing agent (Eph, 5:25,26); it is a two-edged sword, laying bare the heart (Hebrews 4:12); it is food for the spirit (I Pet. 2:2; Matt. 4:4), No person can long maintain deliverance apart from the Word of God as a primary factor in his life.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful, But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)

4. Crucify the Flesh

Take up your cross daily and follow Jesus. (Luke 9:23) Break old habit patterns set up in league with evil spirits. If fleshly appetites, desires and lusts are not brought to the cross, a way for demons to return will be left open. (Gal 5:19-21, 24)

5. Develop a Life of Continuous Praise and Prayer

Praise silences the enemy. Praise is not an attitude of heart, praise is the expression unto God of thankfulness, adoration and joy by speaking, singing, shouting, dancing, leaping, playing musical instruments, clapping the hands, etc. Pray in the Spirit (in tongues) and also in the understanding (1Cor. 14:14). "Pray without ceasing." (1Thess. 5:17)

6. Maintain a Life of Fellowship and Spiritual Ministry

It is the sheep that wanders from the flock that is most endangered. Find and fulfill your function within the body of Christ. Desire spiritual gifts and yield to their operation through you within the body of Christ. (See 1Cor. 12:7-14) Keep yourself under authority.

SEVEN STEPS... continued

7. Commit Yourself Totally to Christ

Determine that every thought, word and action will reflect the very nature of Christ. Abide in Christ that the fruit of the Spirit might come forth in abundance. Demon spirits are enemies of the fruit of the Spirit. Faith and trust in God is the greatest weapon against the devil's lies.

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." (Eph. 6:16)

NOTE: Doing these seven things will insure that your "house" (life) is filled after having been cleansed. No demon will be able to return much less bring any others in with him. If a spirit should trick you and regain entrance, see that he is cast out as soon as possible, either by yourself or with the help of other believers. If other areas of demon activity in your life are subsequently brought to light, seek deliverance. Jesus has made possible complete deliverance. Walk in daily deliverance. Do not settle for anything less!

"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, it is much more (certain), now that we are reconciled that we shall be saved (daily delivered from sin's dominion) through His (resurrection) life." (Romans 5:10 Amplified)

Greater Things

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and less of me.

The here and now things leave us wanting... The eternal satisfies deep emptiness. When we fast, the desires of the flesh become blurrier and weaker, and the perspective of eternity becomes a little clearer and stronger.

Let's get a wholehearted love for God and His ways. Let's leave a divided heart and draw nearer to Him. We were made for so much more than all of this. It will be worth it!

Vanessa Milligan, a stay-at-home mom, serves on the Pastoral Team giving input to the development of the monthly teaching themes for the Prayer Meetings, Men's and Women's Meetings and the Alleluia Dove Newsletter to aid community members in living out their call to growth in holiness. She and her husband, David, have been Full Covenant members of Alleluia Community since 2007. They have four children and are members of Vineyard Community Church in Augusta, GA.



Revised

ALL SAINTS EVE 2016

BLOCK PARTY



**Monday,
October
31st
6 - 8pm**

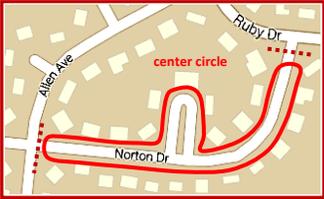
You are invited to the
ALLELUIA COMMUNITY
ALL SAINTS EVE BLOCK-PARTY!
Food, Entertainment and the Favorite
'Sweets for Saints' Walk!

Walking only! Road will be blocked off

**Come
Dressed as
your
Favorite
Saint or
Bible Hero!**

High School
Senior
Concessions
Start EARLY!
at 5 pm
In center circle

**"Sweets for
Saints" Walk**
6 pm - 8 pm



Walking path shown in red.
**** Look for the balloons! ****

For more information, call the
Alleluia Community Office at
706-798-1882

**LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT**



Face-painting

Family Photo
Display