

## Love Is Not All You Need



## Counterfeit Gods

## Creature Worship

“...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the creator...” Romans 1:25

“And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.” Romans 1:28

## Counterfeit Gods

## People: Our Favorite Idol

“We exalt [people] and their perceived power above God. We worship them as ones who have God-like exposing gazes or God-like ability to “fill” us with esteem, love, admiration, acceptance, respect, and other psychological desires.”

Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*

## Counterfeit Gods

## Peer Idolatry

- Grounded in the false belief that the security, approval and acceptance we receive from others is more important than that which we receive from God.
- Peter is a great example of someone who feared others (Matthew 26:69-75) and needed the acceptance of others (Galatians 2:11-14).
- True belief: Fear of the Lord  
“Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.”

Colossians 3:22

## Counterfeit Gods

## Family Idolatry

- Grounded in the false belief that the comfort of their presence in our lives is more satisfactory than God's presence. May also have the false belief that their comfort is more important than their holiness.
- There is a danger that we make idols of ourselves in our families by seeking to become the primary focus of our spouse's and children's affections.
- For some, family idolatry can merge with peer idolatry: "What will you think if I don't have the perfect family?"

## Counterfeit Gods

## Family Idolatry

- David made an idol of Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18) and nearly lost his kingdom to him.
- True belief: The comfort we receive from our family is a provision from God through them. Christ must be our foremost affection, even above our most precious family members.

"I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ." Philippians 3:8

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## Family Idolatry

Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.”

Mark 10:29-30

Counterfeit Gods

## Sexual Idolatry

- Grounded in false belief that sex is the most important need.
- Physiological relationship between sex and our bodies can create enslavement (1 Cor. 6:12-16).
- Jacob (Genesis 28-30) and Solomon (1 Kings 11:1-8) compromised their freedom and their faith because of the women they lusted after.

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## Sexual Idolatry

- True belief: Union with God satisfies the longings of our soul more than any transitory physical experience. Our bodies are meant to glorify God as his image bearers. Sex is a blessing from God of the marital covenant between a man and a woman.

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Cor. 6:19-20

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## Keller Quotes

- “If you get married as Jacob did, putting the weight of all your deepest hopes and longings on the person you are marrying, you are going to crush him or her with your expectations.”
- “To practice idolatry is to be a slave.”
- “We look to sex and romance to give us the transcendence and sense of meaning we used to get from faith in God.”
- “God had come to the girl that nobody wanted, the unloved, and made her the ancestral mother of Jesus.”

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