

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

Ten Commandments for the 21st Century

Jan 2013

LESSON # 3 – YOU SHALL NOT MAKE AN IDOL

INTRODUCTION

What were the idols of Moses' day? What are they today?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: "In a remote village in deepest Africa lived a man who made a living carving and selling idols. One day the light went off inside his being. He looked at his arm that held the chisel and his other arm, which held the idol, and he thought, if my arm can carve this idol, I must worship the One who made my arm. So he set himself to pray to discover the Creator of his arm... [God] blessed this...carver of idols with a revelation of Himself." The Ten Offenses by Pat Robertson

Read Isaiah 44:6-20

1. What are the titles and descriptions God uses of Himself? How is He unique? vv.6-8
2. What does God say of those who make or pursue idols? vv. 9-11
3. How is God different from idols? vv. 12-20
4. What does man do with the idols he creates? For whose purpose? vv.12-20
5. In what ways do those who worship idols end up like them?

Read Exodus 20:4-6

6. How does God feel about our interaction with or worship to other gods?" Vs 5
7. What does "I am a jealous God" mean?

The NASB uses the phrase "you shall not worship them or serve them." How might it be easier for us to *serve* idols than *worship* them? What is there a difference?

Note: The prohibition of images for worship did not ban artistic expression, nor prevent the production of elegant adornments used in the worship of the Lord such as the cherubim (25:18-20). The Lord created people with artistic skills which He intended them to use in representing the beauty of the world He created. When He gave instructions to Moses for building the tabernacle, He commanded the Israelites to make beautiful objects of gold and silver, and ornate clothing using the finest materials available. But God expects people to worship the Creator, not His creation (see Rm 1:18-26).¹

8. Why is idolatry so easy and worship of the one and true God so hard?
9. How do the sins of the fathers affect another generation? Ps 24:3-4; Dt 24:16
10. How does God show love to us? How do we show love to Him?

APPLICATION

- Idols replace God when people begin using "something" to help them worship, but end up worshipping the "thing." How can we prevent this deception?
- What idols have you created (careerism, sports, entertainment, pornography, Christianity, etc.) for yourself that prevent or hinder you from worshipping God? What steps will you take this week to make a course correction?

¹ Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (115). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.