

SESSION #9 BIBLICAL MANHOOD: EMPTY PROMISES

I. INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

1. Manhood traps and sin have a deeper source within us, rather than simply being surface actions and external decisions that we make.
2. Life-change and true transformation will not happen until we can learn to identify and deal with _____ of our sin.
3. The Three Deep Idols:



4. "For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water." Jeremiah 2:13 [ESV]
5. Idols lure us away from the _____ God has for us in His grace.
6. This lesson will look at the struggle with idolatry in the lives of three central figures from the Bible:
 - Adam
 - King Solomon
 - The Apostle Paul

II. ADAM: IDOLS IN PARADISE

1. Adam bought into the original lie, which is the foundational lie for all idols: that we must go around God and away from God, rather than to God, to meet our deepest needs.

Satan Tempting Adam

The Lie	The Deep Idol
Genesis 3:5 "You'll be like God"	Satan appealing to the idols of Control and Significance
Genesis 3:6 "The Fruit is a Delight"	Satan appealing to the idol of Comfort

2. The lie offered by the deep idols: there's a _____ way than what God has provided.

III. KING SOLOMON: CHASING IDOL FANTASIES

- Ecclesiastes documents Solomon's all-out pursuit of happiness in the "broken cisterns that do not hold water."
3. Wisdom and Knowledge
 - Solomon chased wisdom and knowledge. "And applied my heart to see and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven." Ecclesiastes 1:13
 - Solomon concluded: "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my heart has had great experience and wisdom and knowledge. And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but striving after the wind." Ecclesiastes 1:16-17 [ESV]
 4. Pleasure
 - Solomon said, "I said in my heart, 'come now, I will test you with _____; enjoy yourself.'" Ecclesiastes 2:1 [ESV]
 - All he found was vanity.
 5. Excessive Alcohol
 - Solomon found that drunkenness was not a solution for happiness.
 6. Accomplishments
 - Solomon tried to put his hope and identity in this _____ idol.
 7. Wealth
 - "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth, with his income; this also is vanity." Ecclesiastes 5:10 [ESV]
 8. Sex
 - Even with 1,000 women at his disposal, Solomon found it all vanity.
 9. Work
 - Solomon found that work makes for a terrible _____ - another broken cistern.

IV. PAUL: THE IDOL OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Paul describes his impressive, self-righteous resume (which in his day, would have placed him in the "who's – who" of the religious elite): "If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on

the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.” Philippians 3:4-6 [ESV]

- Paul concludes later that: “But whatever gain I had, I counted it as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, 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 3:7-8 [ESV]
- Your Deep idols of CONTROL and SIGNIFICANCE can manifest themselves in religious discipline, _____, or more church.

V. CONCLUSION

1. It's helpful to see that as a man, you are not _____. All of us struggle with this stuff.
2. All things can become sinful things if we make them the main things.
3. Solomon's conclusion: “Enjoy life, don't _____ life.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on Solomon's story. Is there any part of you that would like to try to find fulfillment in unlimited money, pleasure, excessive alcohol, power, sex, success, achievements, etc.? That it's all vanity, like chasing after the wind?
2. Share something that can be an idol in your life and the empty promise that you're tempted to believe.
3. Are you ever tempted toward the idol of self-righteousness as the apostle Paul was at one time in his life? What can that look like in your life?
4. Write down and share with your group your one or two STRATEGIC MOVES that you need to make in order to apply what you've learned in this session.

ANSWERS:

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 - Solomon said, "I said in my heart, 'come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.'" Ecclesiastes 2:1 [ESV]

6. Accomplishments

- Solomon tried to put his hope and identity in this significance idol.

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- Solomon found that work makes for a terrible god - another broken cistern.

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- Your Deep idols of CONTROL and SIGNIFICANCE can manifest themselves in religious discipline, duty, or more church.

V. CONCLUSION

1. It's helpful to see that as a man, you are not alone. All of us struggle with this stuff.
2. All things can become sinful things if we make them the main things.
3. Solomon's conclusion: "Enjoy life, don't worship life.