

SESSION #13 - BIBLICAL MANHOOD: SIGNIFICANCE & COMFORT**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. We laid out a grid of deep idols and gave you an IDOLATRY FRAMEWORK, and we discovered a biblical "Battle Plan" for _____ idols.

II. SIGNIFICANCE

1. The deep idol of SIGNIFICANCE tells us the basic lie that "if a certain person, a certain social group, or the colleagues in my profession...if they find me worthy of attention or love, if they acknowledge my value or greatness, as long as I am not disgraced before them...THEN I'll be important and acceptable.
2. The Approval Trap
 - Also called the "FEAR OF MAN," is often overly concerned with disappointing or upsetting people.
 - You may be hypersensitive to _____ and often react – even to the slightest criticism – with extreme responses.
 - The approval trap also shows itself in men who are controlled by a need to please a parent.
3. The Recognition Trap
 - The recognition trap is based on pride, hungers for admiration and fame and is often fueled by _____ with other men.
4. The Relationship Trap
 - Shows up when a man is tempted to feel "less than" if he is not in a relationship.

III. REPLACING THE IDOL OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. In his booklet "Gospel Relationships," author Tim Chester offers one cure for the deep idol of significance.
 - "The answer to fear of man is the fear of God. We need a big view of God. To fear God is to respect, worship, trust and submit to God. To fear God is to have proper appreciation of His holiness, majesty, glory, power, love and wrath. Christians can now call God our father, and fear in the sense of 'terror' has been taken away... [We must] meditate on God's word glory, greatness, holiness, power, splendor, beauty, grace, mercy, and love. Encourage anyone struggling with the fear of man issues to compare the person(s) they fear with God."
 - By fear of God, the Bible doesn't mean terror but REVERENTIAL AWE.
2. Another antidote for the Significant Idol is _____.
 - Tim Keller, in his booklet on self-forgetfulness, says this:

“The thing we remember from meeting a truly gospel-humble person is how much they seem totally interested in us. Because the essence of gospel humility is not thinking MORE of myself or thinking LESS of myself; it is thinking of myself less.”

- When we TRULY follow Jesus called the second greatest commandment – the commandment to _____ your neighbor as yourself – the importance of our significance fades to the background.

IV. COMFORT

1. The Deep Idol of COMFORT tells us the lie that, “If I can just maintain physically ease or relaxation, if I can be laid back, if I can just keep from stress or responsibility and experience some pleasure and enjoyment, then life will be more fulfilling, easy, fun, or thrilling.”
2. The Fear of Responsibility Trap
 - When a man hides from obligation, believing that real happiness is found APART from responsibility.
3. The Dependence on Consumption Trap
 - The preoccupation with consumption is a diversion, but it’s not a solution to stressful messes around them.
4. The Turning to Escapes Trap
 - When a man turns to illegitimate outlets to escape the harshness or pain of his life and find relief.

V. REPLACING THE IDOL OF COMFORT

1. “The pleasure of life comes not in the pursuit of pleasure but in the fulfillment of responsibility.”
 - “Godly _____” is the desire to achieve something for the glory of God.
2. The ultimate antidote for all idols is God.

VI. CONCLUSION

1. To worship idols and fall for the traps they produce is to _____ the living waters God offers in exchange for broken cisterns that do not hold water.
2. Idols do not work for us: they leave us thirstier and more desperate.
3. Like Jesus, Authentic Men are a _____ – giving spirit, who lead courageously and invest eternally.

DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Which of the significance traps is most relevant for you: the approval trap, the recognition trap, or the relationship trap? Discuss.
2. Which of the comfort traps is most relevant for you: the fear of responsibility, the dependence on consumption, or turning to escapes? Discuss.
3. How did Tierce sharing about his comfort idol speak to you? What are some things you could “miss out on” if you bow to the idol of comfort?
4. Do you think of “ambition” as a good thing or a bad thing? Discuss the difference between “ambition” and “Godly ambition.”
5. Remember to take time to write out a Strategic Move for this session and also to transfer all your strategic moves into an Action Plan.

ANSWERS:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. We laid out a grid of deep idols and gave you an IDOLATRY FRAMEWORK, and we discovered a biblical “Battle Plan” for replacing idols.

II. SIGNIFICANCE

1. The deep idol of SIGNIFICANCE tells us the basic lie that “if a certain person, a certain social group, or the colleagues in my profession...if they find me worthy of attention or love, if they acknowledge my value or greatness, as long as I am not disgraced before them...THEN I'll be important and acceptable.
2. The Approval Trap
 - You may be hypersensitive to criticism and often react – even to the slightest

criticism – with extreme responses.

3. The Recognition Trap

- The recognition trap is based on pride, hungers for admiration and fame and is often fueled by comparison with other men.

III. REPLACING THE IDOL OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. In his booklet “Gospel Relationships,” author Tim Chester offers one cure for the deep idol of significance.
2. Another antidote for the Significant Idol is self-forgetfulness.
 - When we TRULY follow Jesus called the second greatest commandment – the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself – the importance of our significance fades to the background.

IV. COMFORT

No fill in the blanks in this section.

V. REPLACING THE IDOL OF COMFORT

1. “The pleasure of life comes not in the pursuit of pleasure but in the fulfillment of responsibility.”
 - “Godly ambition” is the desire to achieve something for the glory of God.

VI. CONCLUSION

1. To worship idols and fall for the traps they produce is to ignore the living waters God offers in exchange for broken cisterns that do not hold water.
2. Idols do not work for us: they leave us thirstier and more desperate.
3. Like Jesus, Authentic Men are a life – giving spirit, who lead courageously and invest eternally.