

**SESSION #8 BIBLICAL MANHOOD: IDOLS****I. TEMPTATIONS, TRAPS, AND IDOL'S**

1. We're going to help you get to the root issue, the \_\_\_\_\_ beneath the sin.

**II. KEY REALITIES**

1. You've got to be willing to pursue "ruthless honesty" in the company of trustworthy men.
  - "All of us live in fear of exposure. We don't want the worst things about us to be known...we posture and wear masks. We establish elaborate facades and hide behind our good deeds. This refusal to be truly known and exposed keeps us stuck in our sin." – Author David White
2. There's no such thing as life apart from \_\_\_\_\_ and temptation.
  - "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do." Galatians 5:17 [ESV]
3. Grace. Something given to you apart from anything you've \_\_\_\_\_.
  - "The marker of those who understand the gospel of Jesus Christ is that when they stumble and fall, when they screw up, they run TO God and not FROM Him, because they clearly understand that their acceptance before God is not predicted upon their behavior but on the righteous life of Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death." – Pastor Matt Chandler
4. Authentic manhood is primarily about heart change.
  - The noble fight against sin and temptation is not just about \_\_\_\_\_ modification.
  - Behavior modification without heart change is dangerous.

**III. A FRAMEWORK OF IDOLATRY**

1. All wrong behavior ultimately goes back to a \_\_\_\_\_ problem.
  - "Idolatry" is when we allow anything other than God to become the center of our heart's true happiness, contentment, meaning, identity, purpose, or security. It's when we allow something else to become an idol or a "surrogate god" in our life, ruling our thoughts, emotions and behaviors.
  - "Idolatry is always the reason we ever do anything wrong. Why do we ever lie or fail to love or keep promises or live unselfishly?... The specific answer is

always that there is something besides Jesus Christ that you feel you must have to be happy, something that is more important to your heart than God...The secret to change is always to identify the IDOLS OF THE HEART.” – Pastor Tim Keller

2. A few things to know about idols:

- An idol can be anything – even a \_\_\_\_\_ thing.
  - An idol is anything that competes with God for your heart’s affections.
- Idolatry is built on a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Idols come from legitimate desires that are being expressed in inordinate or inappropriate ways.
- For our framework, it is helpful to organize idols into two categories:
  - “Surface” Idols:
    - Obvious and easily recognizable
    - Related to external behavior
  - “Deep” Idols:
    - Core desires that rule our hearts
    - Motivating voices behind surface idols

3. Three deep Idols:



- The Deep Idol of CONTROL
  - THE LIE:  
If I can just maintain influence or mastery over this situation...these people...my performance...my schedule...my income or whatever, then I'll be okay, content, strong and safe.
  - FUNCTIONAL HEAVEN:  
Having certainty or \_\_\_\_\_
  - BIGGEST FEAR:  
Instability or weakness
  - WAYS IT CAN PLAY OUT:
    - Relentless pursuit of SECURITY
    - Excessive pursuit of POWER

- The Deep Idol of SIGNIFICANCE

- THE LIE:  
If this person, this social group, 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 being disgraced before them, then I'll be worthy, important, and acceptable.
- FUNCTIONAL HEAVEN:  
Receiving affirmation and being made to feel important
- BIGGEST FEAR:  
Rejection or \_\_\_\_\_
- WAYS IT CAN PLAY OUT:
  - Overwhelming need for APPROVAL or LOVE
  - Inordinate desire for RECOGNITION

- The deep idol of COMFORT

- THE LIE:  
If I can just maintain physical ease or relaxation, if life can just be laid back, If I can just keep away from stress or responsibility, if I can just experience some pleasure or enjoyment in the moment, then life will be more fulfilling, easy, fun, or thrilling.
- FUNCTIONAL HEAVEN:  
\_\_\_\_\_ and ease.
- BIGGEST FEAR:  
Boredom or responsibility
- WAYS IT CAN PLAY OUT:
  - Avoid STRESS and RESPONSIBILITY
  - Constant CONSUMPTION

## DISCUSSION / REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Refer to the "FOUR KEY REALITIES" listed below. Which one is the most important for you to remember in this season of your life? Why?
  1. Ruthless honesty:
    - Stop pretending
    - Remove the mask
    - You're a mess and I'm a mess
    - Must become a way of life
  2. Struggle & Temptation:
    - Broken men living in a broken world
    - We have natural unhealthy desires for things in this world
    - Even with Christ, we have tension in our desires
    - Desires of the flesh are opposed to desires of the Spirit
    - Idols Distract us from our highest good.

3. Grace:
    - A free gift
    - Not contingent on your performance
    - Motivates us to run to God not from him
    - Jesus already paid your price
  4. Heart Change:
    - The noble fight is not about just behavior modification
    - Behavior modification without heart change is dangerous
    - Mere behavior modification can hide deeper issues
    - The heart drives us towards certain actions, attitudes and behavior
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2. You heard today that idols often start out as good things and come legitimate desires but can be turned into a bad thing. When do you think something crosses the line from being a good thing or a legitimate desire into an idol?
  3. Use the 11 Diagnostic questions below to begin processing which of the deep idols you identify with the most. Control, significance, or comfort? How do you think that Deep Idol is manifesting itself in your life right now?
    1. What do I worry about the most?
    2. What if I failed or lost it, would it cause me to feel that I did not even want to live?
    3. What do I run to in order to comfort myself when things go bad or get difficult?
    4. What do I do to cope, what are my release valves? What do I need to do better?
    5. What often times preoccupies me? What do I always day dream about?
    6. What makes me feel the most self-worth? Of what am I the proudest? For what do I want to be known?
    7. What do I often lead with in conversations?
    8. Early on what do I want to make sure that people know about me?
    9. What prayer, unanswered, would make me seriously think about turning away from God?
    10. What do I really want and expect out of life? What do I think will make me happy?
    11. Whom or what do I trust in for my future?
  4. Write down your STRATEGIC MOVES that you need to make in order to apply what you've learned in this session.

## (ANSWERS)

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2. Grace. Something given to you apart from anything you've done.
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Having certainty or dominance
4. The Deep Idol of SIGNIFICANCE
  - BIGGEST FEAR:  
Rejection or humiliation
5. The deep idol of COMFORT
  - FUNCTIONAL HEAVEN:  
pleasure and ease.

