

WHEN GOOD BECOMES god

Part 1: "Idol Factory"

Introduction

Think idol worship is a thing of the past? Think again. All of us are tempted to take "good things" and worship them as the "ultimate things" that shape our purpose and identity. *Who or what is worthy of worship?* Samer helps us gain perspective on this question by drawing on the wisdom of the apostle Paul.

Discussion Questions

1. When Paul arrived in Athens, he was "deeply distressed" (Acts 17:16) and angry to see all the idols in the city. If Paul came to our city today, what modern day "idols" would he notice?
2. Samer defined an idol as anything we seek to give us what only God can give. Which of these common idols do you find people are tempted to pursue the most: money, beauty, work, children, or relationships?
3. In this season, which are you most tempted to seek from idols: satisfaction, security, or significance?
4. When Paul was invited to address the people at the Areopagus, he started by singling out one specific altar named, "To An Unknown God" (Acts 17:22–23). Why did the Athenians have this altar? Are we tempted to worship idols for the same reason the Athenians built that altar?
5. Read Acts 17:22–29. Paul's speech compels the Athenians to see God as one worthy of worship. Which characteristic(s) of God stand out to you?
6. What can our group do to help each other acknowledge God above these common idols?

Moving Forward

Ask yourself: What do I love most deeply? What do I trust in to give me a sense of security or identity? Where does my time, attention, and money go most consistently and freely? What am I striving to achieve and protect above all else? Whose approval means the most to me?

Changing Your Mind

God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

Acts 17:27

