

Idols Of Our Day

Comfort – Bible Study

Intro:

Last Sunday's sermon was the first of six part teaching series, exploring particular idols that are prevalent within our society and culture today. In this sermon we unpacked together the idol of Comfort. Within your group, take some time to share your reflections from the Sunday's teaching...

- What did you sense God prompting you about?
- Did you personally have a key take-away from the message?
- What was one thing you're going to put into action from Sunday's teaching?
- If you had to make a list of the top 5 idols of our culture, what would it include?

As a group read through Rom 1:18-25 as we begin to think about idols together.

- In what ways do we claim God to be a liar when we look for truth elsewhere?
- In what ways do we claim God is not good when we begin to place our trust in other things?

What do you think of the following quote from Tim Keller?

"Why do we lie, or fail to love, or break our promises, or live selfishly? Of course, the general answer is "Because we are weak and sinful," but the specific answer is that there is something besides Jesus Christ that we feel we must have to be happy, something that is more important to our heart than God, something that is enslaving our heart through inordinate desires. The key to change (and even to self-understanding) is therefore to identify the idols of the heart." (Keller: 2010, 40)

The Idol of Comfort:

- What do you think of this definition below?
- Is there anything you would add/subtract/change to the definition?
- In what ways might we seek comfort for ourselves? What could this look like?

Life only has meaning & worth if you have a particular kind of pleasure experience or quality of life.

Take a read through the 'Three Signs That Comfort Is Your Idol' (Matt Chandler). As you consider each sign, can you see yourself in any of these? Where do you see this in your own life?

1. You're driven and motivated by securing a life that is easier and not harder.
2. Avoiding stress and difficulty becomes a primary motivating factor in your life.
3. In order to comfort yourself in times of stress, you have a tendency to run first to things like food, porn, entertainment, sexual pleasure, alone time, etc; instead of running first to Jesus for comfort.

As a group read through 2 Cor 1:3-7. Let's take some time to consider what true comfort might look like.

- What strikes you about this passage?
- Are there any questions that you would ask of this text?
- What do you notice about the relationship between suffering and comfort here?
- What might it look like to find comfort in Jesus rather than in earthly pleasures? How might you pursue this when life is stressful?

Closing Thoughts

- Is there anything that God has prompted you about through this week's discussion?
- Is there anything that you're going to put into action?
- What might accountability look like for you?