

IDOLATRY
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The story of the prophet Jonah is a story about idolatry. The city of Nineveh was steeped in idolatry. Idols are an abomination to the Lord and a rebellion against God. It misdirects our glory to God for the glory of man. The very first commandment God gave Moses was against false gods. This certainly gives a high priority to idolatry.

Idolatry is a presumption that inanimate objects can save or profit a man. Idolatry is not limited to worship [to put before all else] physical objects but to include specific goals of our lives. Idolatry is the root cause of all sin. The seven capital sins of pride, covetousness, lust, anger, envy, gluttony and sloth are all interrelated through idolatry. [glorification of self-will, self-importance and self-temptation] Idolatry is high treason against our Baptismal covenant. It is a misdirection of love; for love is the perfect virtue. The new religion of egotism is about false witness, lewd conduct, immodesty, wantonness, lust, carousing, usury, adultery, orgies, covetousness, and so much more which fulfills the selfishness of evil desire. Where our heart is, there lies our love.

The great idolatry of our time is the abomination of human sacrifice. Abortion of the innocent as sacrifice to wantonness; euthanasia of the infirmed and elderly considered to be a burden to a society of selfishness, become yet another sacrifice to the gods of inhumanity. The glorification of a death mentality toward those innocents who do not conform to slavery. Idolatry may claim to achieve a superior morality by perverting truth for its own ends; to dominate the meek. True love can never come to terms with the idolatry of personal greed. Idols and idolatry are the work of human hands, the approval of Satan, and the catering to the vanity of our ego. Freedom of expression becomes the cover-up for our guilt; a deceptive perception that glorifies self abandonment as a sign of the beast and not the image of God.

Images of the true God [e.g. Christ on the cross] deserve veneration, not worship. We do not worship the image but the God that it represents. Statues of various saints are not articles of worship. They are three dimensional representations of our faith family; much the same as a photo of our family that we display at home. Reminders of our future home and the kind of people who love God in humility.

Pride is the centerpiece of idolatry because we see ourselves as gods. We are our own maker of justice, superiority, stability, correctiveness, lack of humility and all powerful. The opposite is envy. The insecurity that someone else is better and they desire to have that which they have not earned, and wish another harm for their industriousness. Anger is closely related to envy for it is a feeling of hurt and a desire to retaliate hurt. Sloth is a lack of motivation to seek God and goodness and is a deception of one's self that all is futile so why try. It tends to feel useless with a loss of dignity.

Excessive self love is the idol which leads to greed, gluttony and lust. I will do it my way for I know what's best for me. Self pleasure becomes the goal. It is expressed by a lack of self discipline. [Gluttony is not to be understood exclusively as food or drink] [Lust is not exclusively sex but an unhealthy appetite of vanity.]