

This Is Us

Part 7: Worshippers

Ice Breaker: Invite those who are willing to share some of the answers they wrote down to the quiz at the beginning of the message. For reference, here are the questions:

- What do you feel like you really have to have in your life for you to be happy?
- What one thing do you most hope is in your future?
- What is the one thing you most worry about losing?
- What have you sacrificed most for?
- What makes you feel most significant, most important?
- What triggers discouragement, depression, or anger in you?
- What do you turn to as a stress reliever when things are not going well?

What were some of the things that most resonated in you from last Sunday's message?

How would you define the word "worship"?

How would you define the word "idolatry"?

READ: Colossians 3:1-15

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us. Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful." Colossians 3:1–15 (NLT)

What stands out to you most in this passage?

Paul says that an idolater is someone who worships the things of this world. What does he mean by "the things of this world?"

What does it mean to "set your sights on the realities of heaven" and to "think about the things of heaven?"

READ: Ephesians 5:3-9 (NLT)

“Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God’s people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don’t participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.” Ephesians 5:3–9 (NLT)

What stands out to you most in this passage?

Why is God so angry about idolatry?

What are some of the consequences of our idolatry?

READ: Romans 1:21-25 (NLT)

They knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for idols made in the image of people and animals. For this reason God allowed their lusts to control them. As a result, they became full of sexual sin, using their bodies wrongly with each other. They traded the truth about God for a lie, worshipping and serving the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Romans 1:21-25

What stands out to you most in this passage?

Complete this sentence: The chief end of mankind is to _____ [glorify God and enjoy him forever] _____.
...OR _____ [glorify God by enjoying him forever] _____.

What is the difference between these two statements?

Which of these two statements would you say is more accurate? Why?

What is the antidote and the inoculation against idolatry? [A: Gratitude]

How does gratitude protect us from idolatry?