

Becoming Like What We Worship

- The Image of God and the Corruption of Man's Worship
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- The Call to Reflect Christ
- Guarding Our Hearts from False Worship

From the beginning, God created man in His image ([Gen.1:27](#)).

Yet, throughout history, man has often tried to reshape God, into his own image —fashioning idols, redefining His will, or adjusting His Word, to fit personal desires.

The danger, is not only in making idols, but in becoming like them. What or whom we worship, shapes our hearts, thoughts, and lives.

As [Psa.135:18](#) warns,

- “**They that make them, are like unto them; so is every one, that trusteth in them.”**

Let’s explore how this truth unfolds in our lives, and how we can, instead, reflect the image of Christ —our perfect example—by walking as He walked ([1Jn.2:6](#)).

Let’s begin by considering,

I. **The Image of God and the Corruption of Man’s Worship**

To understand why idolatry distorts us, we must first remember, how God created us.

A. Man Created in God’s Image

In the beginning, mankind was designed, to bear God’s likeness—holy, righteous, and pure.

The Bible says,

- “**So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.”** ([Gen.1:27](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Image**” (Hebrew tselem) means, a reflection or resemblance.
- Humanity, was made to reflect God’s character —not His physical form—but His holiness, reason, and moral nature.

The Bible says,

- “**Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many **inventions**.”** ([Ecc.7:29](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Inventions**” refers to, human schemes and sinful pursuits.
- God’s design was uprightness, but man’s choices, distorted the reflection of His image.

Like a mirror that becomes smudged, sin blurs the reflection, of God’s image in us.

The more we turn from His light, the dimmer His likeness, becomes in our lives.

God created man, to reflect His holiness, but sin introduced a distortion, that led to false worship and self-centered living.

Having seen God's pure design for mankind, we now recognize how far the human heart has drifted. Sin not only distorts God's image in us—it tempts us to reverse the order, entirely.

Instead of allowing God to shape us,

B. Man's Desire is to Remake God

The Bible says,

- “Professing themselves to be **wise**, they became fools,
²³ and **changed the glory** of the uncorruptible God, into an image, made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.” ([Rom.1:22-23](#))

Explanation:

- The phrase “**changed the glory**” means, to exchange or trade away.
- Man’s “**wisdom**” leads to folly, when he tries to make God fit, human ideals or values.

The Bible says of Aaron,

- “**he received them at their hand** (that is, the gold), **and fashioned** it, with a graving tool... and **they said**, These be thy gods, O Israel.” ([Ex.32:4](#))

Explanation:

- Aaron shaped or “**fashioned**”, the golden calf to represent God.
- This act, reveals mankind’s constant temptation, to make visible representations of God, that align with their own desires.

When people say, “My God would never judge,” or “I think God understands my lifestyle,” they often create a god of their imagination—one who approves, of what they love;—Instead of teaching them, **to love what He approves**.

When man fashions God in his own image, the tragedy does not stop there.

The one who reshapes God, soon becomes reshaped himself, reflecting his own corruption.

What—or whom—we worship, ultimately forms what we become.

II. Becoming, Like What We Worship

The question arises—not whom we make, but who makes us? Let’s consider...

A. The Principle of Transformation

Whatever captures our devotion, will shape our hearts and behavior.

- “**They that make them** (that is, the idols), **are like unto them**; so is every one that trusteth in them.” ([Psa.135:18](#))

Explanation:

- The phrase, “**Like unto them**” means, similar in nature or character.
- Idols cannot see, hear, or think, and those who trust in them become spiritually dull and unresponsive to truth.

The Bible says,

- “we all, with open face, beholding as in a **glass**, (the mirror of God’s Word) the glory of the Lord, are **Changed** into the same image, **From Glory** (our beginning), **To Glory** (our ongoing growth), even as, by the **Spirit of the Lord** (the divine agent of change).” ([2Cor.3:18](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Changed**” (Greek *metamorphoō*) means, transformed.
- As we turn our hearts toward Christ through the Word, prayer, and obedience, His Spirit continually shapes us, into His likeness.
- The “**glass**” (God’s Word) reveals His glory; as we behold it, His image is imprinted upon us—progressively, continually, and eternally.

Like clay in the hands of a potter, our hearts are molded, by what we focus on. If we fixate on worldly idols—of wealth, fame, or approval—we will take their shape. But if we behold Christ, His likeness, will form within us.

While the idols of stone and gold may have faded, the human heart still manufactures,

B. Modern Idolatry in Everyday Life

The Bible says,

- “**Mortify** therefore your members, which are upon the earth; ...and **covetousness**, which is **idolatry**.” ([Col.3:5](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Covetousness**” (Greek *pleonexia*) means, greed or an insatiable desire for more.
- When we live for possessions or pleasures, we have made them, our gods.

Jesus said,

- “**No man, can SERVE** two masters: for either he will **Hate** the one, and **Love** the other; or else he will **Hold** to the one, and **Despise** the other. Ye canNot serve God and **mammon**.” ([Matt.6:24](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Mammon**” means, wealth or material gain, personified as a master.
- Divided allegiance, corrupts our hearts.

One who spends all their time and energy, chasing success, soon discovers that their “god” of achievement, demands constant sacrifice—of time, relationships, peace of mind—while receiving only temporary gain.

Idolatry isn’t just ancient—it’s alive in every heart, that exalts something above God. The heart’s throne, has room for only one King, which is why Jesus said,

- “**But Seek ye FIRST** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;” ([Matt.6:33a](#))
- “**Thou shalt LOVE** the Lord thy God, with **ALL** thy heart, and with **ALL** thy soul, and with **ALL** thy mind.
³⁸ **This is the FIRST** and great commandment.” ([Matt.22:37-38](#))

Having seen the danger of false worship, let us turn to the glory of true imitation,

III. The Call to Reflect Christ

And this call begins by...

A. Following the Example of Jesus

Jesus showed us, not only who God is, but also, what we are meant to become.

- “**He that saith he abideth in Him, ought himself also, so to walk, even as He walked.**” ([1Jn.2:6](#))

Explanation:

- The phrase, “**To walk**” refers to, daily conduct.
- Abiding in Christ, produces imitation of His humility, purity, and obedience.

Paul said,

- “**Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.**” ([Phil.2:5](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Mind**” means, attitude or mindset.
- The humility of Christ, and His submission to God’s will, must define our thinking.

Children naturally imitate their parents.

In the same way, when we truly love our Father and our Savior, our lives begin to mirror their character.

Imitating Christ isn’t about perfection—it’s about direction.

The closer we walk with Him, the more we resemble Him.

Following the Example of Christ, changes how we live;
but true worship, goes even deeper—it changes who we are. So, Let’s consider...

B. The Transformation of True Worship

True worship changes us, from the inside out.

- Paul said, “**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (or spiritual) service.** ² **And be NOT conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**” ([Rom.12:1-2](#))

Explanation:

- “**Conformed**” means, molded by outward pressures;
- “**transformed**” means, renewed from within, by God’s Spirit revealed Word.

Jesus said,

- “**The true worshippers, shall worship the Father, in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such, to worship Him.** ²⁴ **God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him, in spirit and in truth.**” ([Jn.4:23-24](#))

Explanation:

- “**In spirit**” = the right attitude and inner condition (the spiritual innerman, not fleshly or ritual).
- “**In truth**” = the right standard and object (according to God’s revealed truth).

When a mirror faces the light, it reflects brightness. But turn it away, and it reflects darkness.
Our hearts reflect, what they face most—worldly things, or the character of Christ.

The more we behold Christ, the more we become like Him.

True worship renews the heart, reshapes the mind, and aligns us with God’s will.

True worship brings transformation—but that transformation must be protected. If we are not careful, the pull of the world, can quietly undo, what Christ is building in us.

Therefore, the next step in our walk with God, is...

IV. Guarding Our Hearts from False Worship

To remain like Christ, we must vigilantly,

A. Beware of Corrupt Influences

Our hearts are shaped, not only by what we worship, but also by what we admire.

- “Be Not deceived: evil **communications**, corrupt good manners.” ([1Cor.15:33](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Communications**” refers to, companionship or association.
- The company we keep, molds our character.

- The Bible says, “**Keep** thy heart with all diligence; for out of it, are the issues of life.” ([Prov.4:23](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Keep**” means, to guard or protect.
- Our spiritual health depends on, what we allow to influence, our thoughts and affections.

As a sponge absorbs whatever it’s placed in, so our hearts absorb what surrounds us.

Constant exposure to ungodly influences, will shape our character, toward worldliness.

To remain like Christ, we must carefully choose, what and whom, we allow to influence our hearts.

Even as we guard our hearts from corruption, we must also direct our focus, toward something greater. The surest safeguard, against drifting from the truth, is...

B. Keeping Our Eyes Firmly Fixed on Jesus

Our safety, lies in a steadfast focus on Christ, not the world.

- “**Looking** unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” ([Heb.12:2](#))

Explanation:

- “**Looking**” means, to fix one’s eyes, away from distractions and toward one object—Christ alone.

- The Bible says, “**If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above...**
Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” ([Col.3:1-2](#))

Explanation:

- The word, “**Affection**” refers to, the seat of our desires.
- Spiritual focus, determines spiritual growth.

A compass always points north, because it is aligned, to a higher magnetic field.

Likewise, when our hearts are aligned to Christ, even the storms of life, cannot turn us off course.

The danger of losing focus on Christ, is vividly seen in Peter’s experience, on the stormy sea.

- “**when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.**
But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink,
he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him,
and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” ([Matt.14:29-31](#))

When Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he walked above the waves—but when he turned his attention to the wind and the storm, he began to sink. The same is true for us: faith thrives, when our gaze is fixed on Christ, but falters when we are distracted by fear or the culture of idols.

V. Some Final Thoughts

The heart becomes, like what it beholds.

Those who fashion idols—whether stone, silver, or self—become lifeless, blind, and unfeeling.

But those who gaze upon Christ, are filled with light, love, and life.

Let us be careful what we admire, because admiration leads to imitation, and imitation leads to transformation.

Let us, therefore, seek to “**walk even as He walked**” ([1Jn.2:6](#)),

so that when others look upon our lives, they may see NOT us—but **Christ living in us** ([Gal.2:20](#)).

God invites every soul to turn away from false gods and to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

He calls us to, faith in His Son ([Rom.1:5-6](#)), to repentance ([Lk.13:3](#)),

and to a life transformed by His Word ([Acts 8:36-39](#); [Rom.6:3-4](#); [Titus 3:4-5](#)).

- “**Little children, keep yourselves from idols.**” ([1Jn.5:21](#))