



DISCIPLER'S GUIDE Part 2

Study H: Understanding Idolatry

"Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. But now that you know God -- or rather to be known by God, how is it that you are turning back again to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?"

Gal. 4:8,9

Why: Reasons for the study

- In the modern Christian world, many lack the understanding of how idolatry has such a grip on our lives.
- Today idols are often solely viewed as objects of false religions rather than "affections of the heart," which are substitutes for a vital relationship with Christ.

What: Principles to grasp

- This lesson may present "eye-opening" concepts to disciples.
- Idolatry began in the Garden – there is nothing new under the sun.
- Idolatry is always built on the lies of Satan and self.
- We are all guilty of being "idol-manufacturers."
- Although we will never be totally free of idols, our lives should not be characterized by idolatry.
- All personal idols exist to feed and maintain our self-idolatry/self-worship.
- God has given us the power and resources to repent of idolatry.

How: Path to a changed life

- To understand the definitions of idols, both positive and negative
- To identify their specific idols
- To recognize and renounce Satan's temptations to believe his lies; to be aware of his schemes
- To renew their minds with truth about God's character and provision; His sufficiency and adequacy to satisfy and fulfill; His power to free

Helpful Ideas:

- Assess whether your disciples are grasping the major ideas of this study.
- Assign the checklist of wrong beliefs.
- Assign the checklist of categories of idols – have disciple confess these to God.
- Assign questions about warning signals.

Tools and additional resources:

- *Pursuing Idols* diagram and *Pursuing Righteousness* diagram
- *God's Call to a True Identity in Christ* greatly expands on this study. Your disciple may choose to go through it with you or independently.
- *Counterfeit Gods* by Timothy Keller