

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY OF GOD

Idols and Identities

*“My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me, the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”*
Jer. 2:13

The first of the Ten Commandments given to the people of God was:

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”
Ex. 20:3

That commandment is followed by the second one, *“You shall not make for yourself an idol... You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God...”* (Ex. 20:4,5) In our modern world, idols can still be made of wood, silver and bronze, but they are rarely the types of idols found among Christians. With molten images in mind, today’s believer may quickly dismiss the subject of idols. But the fact remains that idols do exist in our lives, often in forms that we would not consider. This lesson is designed to acquaint you with the topic of idols and then to help you identify the “other gods” that you may be substituting for a meaningful relationship with the one true God. (Matt. 22:37,38)

This study correlates with the *Living Independently of God* diagram. As each new concept from the diagram is introduced in this study, it will appear in bold type so that you can follow the progression of ideas.

I. God created you with the capacity to worship, to think, to choose and to feel.

- A. These four areas may be *characterized* as under the control of self.
- B. These four areas may be *characterized* as under the control of God and His Word.

II. God created you with the ability to worship.

- A. Before you became a believer, you worshiped and idolized self.
 - 1. You existed for your own purposes rather than God’s. (2 Cor. 5:15)
 - 2. Your unbelief in God, His character, commands and promises, led you to build a way to try to control your world for your purposes. (Eph. 2:1-3)
 - 3. Self was enthroned in God’s place, and you were a slave to sin. (Rom. 6:16; John 8:34)
- B. Through the Holy Spirit’s regeneration of your soul, God has given you the desire, ability and capacity to turn from self-worship, to worship Him.

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- III. Your life may still be characterized by **self-worship** and **self-idolatry** though you are now a Christian.
- A. Your worship of self is prideful. **Pride** is manifested in two ways: **unbelief in God** and **trust in self and Satan**. (Rom. 1:25)
 - B. Your thought processes may still be rooted in *unbelief* in God's character, commands and promises when making the choices of how to live your daily life.
- IV. Your lack of trust in God (unbelief) produced a system of **wrong beliefs** about God and about yourself. These wrong beliefs may include:
- A. "God's characteristics, commands and promises cannot be trusted to work in *my* life."
 - B. "My old nature is still alive and fighting for control in me rather than understanding the biblical truth that my old nature died at the time of your spiritual rebirth."
 - C. "I know better than God what I need to feel secure, satisfied and fulfilled."
 - D. "I will continue to trust in my own reasoning and resources, rather than trusting in God's wisdom and appropriating His resources."
 - E. "I feel much more secure in trying to keep my life under my control, my way. I don't want to take the uncomfortable risks to obey God."
 - F. "I may be miserable, but at least my system is familiar and therefore, easier than taking the risks involved to change."
 - G. "I have spent years building a system to cope with life, using my strategies. Why should I give them up to follow Jesus when His way may not work?"
- V. You established **unbiblical goals** based on your system of wrong beliefs about God and yourself.
- A. These unbiblical goals may include:
 - 1. To have life under *my* control and on *my* terms
 - 2. To live a pain-free life, free from suffering
 - 3. To live a happy life, filled with pleasure
 - 4. To be loved

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5. To be affirmed: seeking the affirmation of others and/or the affirmation of self through accomplishments, prestige, pleasure, etc.
 6. To be respected, appreciated
 7. To be accepted
 8. To gain attention; to feel important
 9. To be the “center of attention,” either with positive or negative feedback
 10. To feel secure in my circumstances and in my relationships with others
 11. To build my ego and self-esteem
 12. To alleviate boredom; to be entertained and stimulated
 13. To have God, people and circumstances cooperate to meet my goals
- B. These goals may still be paramount in your life, just as they were when you were an unbeliever.
- C. Unbiblical goals often become demands, which result in sinful responses when they are not met. See *The Self-Life* diagram, *The Controllers*.
- VI. Your self-life goals led to your *choice* of **other idols**, which were established and are maintained to feed your self-idolatry.
- A. An idol is whatever or whomever stands between you and a strong, dependent relationship on God.
 - B. An idol becomes a *substitute* for God and His resources.
 - C. An idol is a focus with which you are often preoccupied and sometimes, consumed.
 - D. An idol may become an addiction or something that puts you in bondage.
 - E. An idol may be “negative” or “positive.” For example:
 1. Negative: You may be embittered toward a certain person, with whom you are preoccupied, which feeds your negative emotions.
 2. Positive: You may be preoccupied with a career or a ministry, while ignoring your spouse or children, because your positive emotions are fed outside the home.

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“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

Jonah 2:8

F. Your idols may include:

1. a certain person or persons
2. your role, such as mother, father, husband, wife, teacher, pastor, position
3. an ideal or fantasy on which you focus
4. an ability, a talent or accomplishment(s)
5. a personality or character trait of which you are proud; your reputation
6. a situation or circumstance
7. your appearance, such as your body, hair, certain features, clothing; how you present yourself to others
8. your reputation
9. a tangible or intangible thing; possessions
10. a pursuit; an activity
11. your logic
12. a place
13. a form of entertainment; a reward
14. a “pet” or secret sin
15. the specific goals mentioned in section V, such as happiness, self-affirmation, affirmation of others, security, comfort, stimulation, etc., may also be idols, as well as goals. Be sure to look at that section.

D. An evaluation of what or who is an idol in your life is important. The following questions may help you decipher what idols you have in your life:

1. “Am I primarily focused on/or preoccupied with a person, ideal, role, pursuit, thing or situation rather than on God?”

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2. “Am I primarily trying to seek comfort, security, satisfaction, and/or fulfillment, through my idols rather than through my relationship with Christ?”
3. “Do I believe I will no longer belong, be a part of a group or lose my friends if I give up the idols which connect me to them?”
4. “Am I trying to build my self-esteem and/or to gain love, approval, attention, affirmation, importance and/or stimulation through the means of my idols?”
5. “Do I refuse to let God and His resources fill my voids and satisfy my desires, but instead turn to my idols?”
6. “Am I relying upon self-trust and my own forms of coping, which include my idols, to emotionally sustain me?” (Prov. 28:26)
7. “Do I believe my life is or will be apathetic and uneventful? Therefore, I am relieved from boredom by seeking excitement and fulfillment in pursuing idols?”
8. “Do I expect others to admire and respect the traits I think are worthy of attention in myself?”
9. “Do I try to control, manipulate and/or impress others with my knowledge, logic, charm, sexuality, capabilities, accomplishments, humor, etc.?”
10. “Would I be devastated if name idol(s) were taken from me?”
11. “Do I use my idols as an escape from obedience to God’s commands and from His priorities?”

***“You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD,
but serve the LORD with all your heart.
Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good,
nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.
For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people,
because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.”
1 Sam. 12:20b-22***

- E. You must realize that even though you may be relying on your idols and self-oriented motives/goals, God commands you to forsake them. (Lev. 19:4; 1 Cor. 10:7a)

***“Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”
1 John 5:21***

***“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”
1 Cor. 10:14 NASB***

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- F. It is important to be able to identify your idols, wrong beliefs and goals and how you still try to use them to try to maintain your emotional stability.
- VII. Idolatry can become so entrenched in your life that you form a **false identity** around it. Idols and identities can be very tightly intertwined.
- A. You can be a believer and yet, have your personal identity wrapped up in someone or something, so that your new identity in the Lord Jesus Christ is not *experienced*.
- B. You allow an identity to define *who you are*.
1. If you are experiencing that your identity is in someone or something other than Christ, you will use it to accomplish your own ends or to serve your own purposes by trying
 - a. to please someone else.
 - b. to reach your self-life goals.
 - c. to evaluate how you perceive yourself.
 - d. to evaluate how you *feel* about yourself.
 2. When one of your idols/identities fails to attain your goals, you may turn to others to produce the desired results.
- C. You may have several identities so that when one fails you can turn to another.
- D. Your identity may be defined by *who someone else wants you to be*.
- E. You may have a “negative” identity, which you try to overcome by creating a “positive” identity.
1. You may have a negative view of yourself and try to overcome it by trying to build a “positive” identity.
 2. You may be a perfectionist in an attempt to overcome a negative view of yourself.
 3. You may become performance-oriented, driven, consumed and/or obsessed in trying to achieve in some area(s) to overcome a negative view of yourself.
- F. Your false identity, upon which you continue to rely, may be established in one or several of the following:

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Note: Because the list includes so many false identities, some have been grouped together. Highlight or circle only those pertaining to you within a grouping.

1. a role: teacher, leader, pastor, friend, discipler
2. a role in a family, husband, wife, mother, father, the latter two may include the role you assume in an extended family or even in friendships:
3. a “child,” even though you are an adult ~ This person excuses himself from being obedient and/or responsible because he is unwilling to accept his role as adult.
 - a. He may expect others to take care of his responsibilities while he pursues what is pleasurable to him; is easily overwhelmed by life’s demands.
 - b. He may respond to people and circumstances in childlike ways: temper tantrums, pouting, whining, demanding, repaying evil for evil, giving up, etc.
4. a role in a career, job, ministry, position; being successful
5. an intellectual; a knowledgeable, logical person; a biblically knowledgeable person
6. a nobody, failure, loser, inferior to others, victim or child ~ This person may use any of these to excuse himself from living a godly and/or responsible life.
7. a person who defines who he is by his/her appearance, physique
 - a. In a positive way: being beautiful, cute, sexy, handsome, having a great body
 - b. In a negative way: being ugly, fat, unattractive
8. a spiritual person, a godly person, a nice person
9. a “macho” person, a rebel, a bad guy or gal, a whore, a glutton, a lazy person
10. a member of a certain group, organization
11. an athlete; participant in a certain sport
12. a “normal” person and leading a normal life
13. a person who defines his/her identity through sexuality, ability to attract the opposite sex, having someone need him or her sexually
14. a feminist; a chauvinist

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15. a busy person; an organizer
16. a perfectionist
17. an entertainer, a clown
18. a conqueror, a winner, a convincer: having power over others through use of intellect, charm, intimidation, manipulation, sexuality, physical prowess, etc.
19. a rescuer, savior, enabler; a “fixer,” a person who needs to be needed
18. a nationality, heritage, race, religion
19. an eccentric; a maverick; being unique
20. a person who feels superior or inferior to others
21. a “together” person
22. a victim, a martyr
23. a survivor
24. an expert; one who tries to impress others
25. a “humble” person ~ This person tries to project an image of being humble by putting himself down frequently (a false humility) and perhaps, overly praising others.
26. an “island,” or a “fortress” ~ This person believes he needs no one emotionally or relationally. He views himself as completely self-sufficient. See the study, *The Fortress Mentality* for further clarification.
27. a chameleon; a person who tries to *be* what others wants him to be ~ Often this person has no sense of who he is because he has spent a lifetime trying to conform to the expectations of others.
28. a person created through fantasy ~ This person retreats into fantasy to create an identity that he views as positive, perhaps to overcome a negative identity. The fantasies may include:
 - a. placing yourself in ideal situations.
 - b. imagining ideal outcomes to possible future situations.

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- c. developing romantic and/or erotic scenarios. Often this person is addicted to pornography, romance novels or soap operas, a bondage which is difficult to break because his or her identity is created through this means.
 - d. viewing yourself as
 - 1) a conqueror, powerful.
 - 2) an object of great attention, admiration, sexual appeal, adoration, and/or great need.
 - 3) a rescuer, savior of others.
 - 4) a great achiever.
- F. You will exhibit one or more of these *warning signals* if you define who you are by placing your identity in something other than Christ. You may
- 1. attempt to control your world through sinful strategies, in order to build and to maintain your idols/identities.
 - 2. be primarily focused on seeking security, satisfaction and fulfillment through your idols/false identities.
 - 3. be driven, preoccupied or consumed by pursuing that in which you have placed your identity.
 - 4. be a people-pleaser in order to try to become the person that someone else wants you to be in order to make him or her happy, keep the peace, not rock the boat. Ultimately, you do this in order to please yourself though the absence of conflict.
 - 5. use a “negative identity,” such as a loser, a failure, a fat person, a nobody, victim or child to excuse yourself from obedience to God and responsibility to others. You may use a negative identity to blame others for your difficulties, while excusing your sinful initiatives and responses.
 - 6. have difficulty in establishing and/or maintaining meaningful relationships.
 - 7. not develop biblical priorities.
 - 8. become angry, defensive, embittered, depressed, self-pitying, and/or blame others when you are threatened with the loss of idols/identities.

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9. be resistant toward or withdrawn from anyone who would threaten the failure or loss of your identity and/or would confront your sin.
 10. harden your heart and numb your spirit toward God and/or others.
- G. The establishment of your idols and false identities, whether conscious or unconscious, is rooted in one or more of the following:
1. the refusal to avail yourself of Christ's power to fix your identity *experientially* in Him
 2. your ignorance in how to go about living out your identity in Christ
 3. the attempt to reach your unbiblical goals
 4. the rejection of the life or forms of suffering Christ designed for you
 - a. the attempt to recreate a difficult life into a self-made heaven
 - b. the attempt to escape suffering and/painful realities
 5. the rejection or denial of who you *actually* are
 6. the attempt to ignore and deny your personal sin and failure, which includes
 - a. your need to repent and to obey the Lord
 - b. the call on your life to deal with your pride, sinful motives, goals, idols and identities in a biblical way
 - c. the refusal to take risks in obedience to God
 7. the attempt to bring revenge to people who have deeply hurt you
- H. Your pursuit of your identity in externals/fantasies
1. excludes your *experiential* identification with Christ. (Rom. 6:11; Gal. 2:20)
 2. creates a self-centered, self-focused lifestyle.

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VIII. The threatened loss or failure of that role, activity, person or thing in which you have placed your identity often reveals the recognition of where your false identity lies.

- A. If you are not experiencing your identity in Christ, you usually will believe one or more of the following statements, when you are faced with relinquishing your false identity:
1. "I will be a "nobody" if I give up that which I've placed my identity."
 2. "If I give up my _____, I won't know who I am."
 3. "I will not be important to _____ or anybody."
 4. "I will not be loved, accepted or affirmed."
 5. "I will not be able to affirm myself."
 6. "I will not receive the attention I believe I need from others."
 7. "I will lose my sense of security."
 8. "I will be bored. My life will not have thrills or excitement."
 9. "If I forsake trying *to be* who _____ wants me to be, I may lose him/her or he/she will make life more difficult for me."
 10. "I won't fit in or belong any more."
 11. "I will have to take responsibility for my attitudes and actions and obey God." This is particularly true of the person who fosters a negative identity.
 12. "I will not emotionally survive the loss of that in which I have placed my identity."
- B. These are common responses when facing the loss of a false identity. However, ultimately, these may prove to be positive because
1. you are able to acknowledge how truly dependent you are upon the identity you have constructed and confess this situation to the Lord. (1 John 1:9)
 2. you are in a position to release who you will become to the Lord, as you allow Him to live His life through you. Be patient as He molds you into whom *He* wants you to be.
- C. You may experience a time of mild to intense grieving and/or fear when faced with giving up your idols and identities upon which you have been emotionally dependent.

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IX. Controlling strategies are the **means** by which you build and maintain your idols/false identities. They may include:

A. Performance-oriented control:

1. Your ability to perform to your satisfaction, as well as for the satisfaction of God and others, becomes an all-important focus.
2. Your Christian life is largely lived in the flesh, rather than being led by the Spirit.
3. You may hold these *erroneous* beliefs of how your good performance will impact God's view of you.
 - a. He will love you and accept you more fully because of your good performance.
 - b. You will win greater favor with God based on your performance.
 - c. He will not allow you to suffer.
 - d. You are in a better position to bargain with Him.
 - e. He will give you what you want.
4. Your emphasis on performance will affect you and your relationship with others.
 - a. Because you are very aware of your performance, you will often expect certain responses from others, such as
 - 1) receiving affirmation, acceptance, love, security, respect.
 - 2) not having problems, conflicts, difficulties.
 - 3) having your reputation protected.
 - 4) having others please you by their abilities to perform.
 - b. If you are focused on performance, you may be a perfectionist, either of yourself and/or others.
5. Your performance-orientation may also include one or more of the following characteristics: You may
 - a. fear failure, exposure of your sin, the unknown.
 - b. fear of others seeing your what you view as your inferior characteristics.

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- c. try to build your security around your ability to control people and circumstances.
- d. try to please the person(s) who control and dominate you.
- e. be legalistic; putting your emphasis on *doing* “spiritual things,” rather than developing inner character. (Matt. 23)
- f. believe you are a strong, capable person: taking care of others, “fixing” problems, ministering to others, having the “need to be needed.”
- g. have begun to develop forms of control in childhood because a parent and/or siblings.
 - 1) looked to you for emotional support, to be the stability in the family, to defuse conflict or to make them happy.
 - 2) demanded to be pleased by your performance.
 - 3) were very negative and critical when you failed.
- h. have learned to suppress, to deny and/or not express sinful emotions, as anger or fear. Perhaps you were not permitted to express sadness, grief or your opinions. You may also
 - 1) think you are “unspiritual” if you experience the feelings of bitterness, anger, fear or self-pity, so you suppress, ignore and deny them.
 - 2) be unable to *identify* these emotions.
 - a) Therefore, you shut God out by not turning to Him, using *His* means of release: forgiving, confessing and depending on Him.
 - b) Instead, you rely on your own sinful strategies of control, such as denial, suppression, avoidance. See *The Controller of Circumstances, CTO*.
 - 3) experience lack of intimacy with God and/or others.

B. Other forms of sinful control:

- 1. people-pleasing
- 2. manipulating, bribing, “guilt trips,” martyrdom

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3. using fear tactics, intimidating; convincing
4. shifting blame, judging, condemning
5. withdrawing
6. ignoring or minimizing problems, procrastinating, suppressing
7. etc., etc., etc.!

See *The Controllers* studies, which describe many controlling strategies.

- X. Your identity may be so deeply entrenched in (whatever), that you view it as your “*life source*,” which you wrongly believe you must be using successfully in order to be emotionally and perhaps, physically sustained.
- A. You may experience some form of physical pain when you make the wrenching choices to obey God, rather than to follow your normal course of sin.
 - B. You may experience physical pain when facing the fear of losing that in which you have placed your identity, such as: difficulties breathing, panic attacks, tremendous internal pressure or heart palpitations. Satan uses these to convince you that you will literally die if you turn away from sin and obey Jesus.
 - C. You must renew your mind with these truths:
 1. God is your creator and the sustainer of your life and soul! (Col. 1:17)
 2. God will take you through the pain to freedom in His time and in His way. (John 8:31,32) See *Facing Emotional Pain, CTO*.

***“Surely God is my help;
the Lord is the one who sustains me.”
Ps. 54:4***

- XI. The interconnectedness of this entire sinful system then produces **ungodly attitudes**.
- A. If the system is working, it will usually result in attitudes of superiority, judgmentalness, arrogance, self-righteousness, self-sufficiency.
 - B. If the system isn’t working, it will usually result in attitudes of inferiority, self-pity, anger, bitterness, hopelessness and/or depression.

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Note: If you have nurtured a negative identity, such as a loser, failure, martyr or victim, you will probably have ungodly attitudes of self-pity, anger, bitterness, etc. However, your system *is* working because you excuse yourself from responsibility and obedience to God while often blaming someone else for your problems.

XII. The entire system produces **behaviors**, which may be outwardly “good” or sinful.

- A. You may be doing the right things with sinful motives.
 - 1. The Pharisees are examples of being outwardly righteous, while driven by sinful motives. (Matt. 23)
 - 2. The apostle Paul addresses this situation in Philippians 1:17.
- B. You may be exhibiting sinful behaviors because of your selfish goals and sinful motives.

XIII. Your self-idolatry, unbelief in God, wrong beliefs, other idols, false identities, controlling attitudes and behaviors, combine to form your “*sinful survival plan*.” Your reliance upon this survival system will produce responsive **emotions**.

- A. Generally, positive emotions like “feeling good” result when sinful strategies seem to be working.
- B. Generally, negative emotions result when sinful strategies fail to attain your unbiblical goals.
 - 1. Your emotions *cannot* be the determining factor of evaluating whether your survival system is godly or ungodly. For example:
 - a. You may experience *positive* emotions while sinning, such as
 - 1) feeling loved and appreciated when committing adultery.
 - 2) feeling peaceful when filing for an unbiblical divorce.
 - 3) feeling secure because your sinful controlling strategies are working.
 - b. You may experience *negative* emotions, such as being hurt by another’s rejection while taking a stand for Christ.
 - 2. Your standard must be the Scriptures.

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- C. Generally, the person who has a “negative identity,” such as a loser, nobody, fat person, failure, victim or child will experience negative emotions when his sinful survival system *is* working.
1. He persists in this lifestyle because he convinces himself that he is helpless to change. He does not draw on God and His resources to change him.
 2. He *wants* to blame others for his problems. Then he is not responsible for his sinful responses, attitudes and behaviors.
 3. He may convince himself and perhaps others that they should take care of his responsibilities because he views himself as incapable of doing so and/or others “owe” it to him.
 4. His negative identity accomplishes what he *really* is demanding, which is deluding himself into believing that he is excused from growth in godliness and responsibility.

XIV. The belief that the loss your false identity or life source will lead to an emotional shattering or physical collapse, is a lie of Satan. (John 8:44-46) See *Satan, the Adversary, CTO*.

***“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth,
visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;
all things were created by him and for him.
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
Col. 1:16,17***

- A. When threatened with the loss of a false identity or a false life source, there will usually be a *crisis of belief*, at which time, Satan will do all in his power
1. to keep you in bondage to your sin.
 2. to convince you that you will never make it without _____ and perhaps, that you will physically die.
 3. to convince you that you *are* relying on Christ and His Word, when in fact, you are appearing “spiritual” while trusting in your idols and false identities. Although things may *appear* well on the surface, and you may “feel good” about yourself,
 - a. you are not dependent on the Lord and His resources.
 - b. you are not walking by faith, dependent upon His supernatural power to sustain you. (2 Cor. 5:9)

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4. to convince you that the “old life” system is superior to the new life experienced in Christ.
 5. to convince you that Christ cannot be your *primary* source of satisfaction, security and fulfillment.
 - a. Satan wants you to believe that life in Christ will be boring and not stimulating compared to a life spent in the pursuit of your idols.
 - b. You choose to disregard God’s promise that you are to place your hope in Him, “*who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment*” through His means. **(1 Tim. 6:17b)**
 6. to convince you that God’s power cannot transform you.
 7. to convince you that you are not able to take the leaps of faith necessary to be free.
 8. to convince you that it is too hard to change, and the easiest course to continue in the sinful path of familiarity.
 9. to convince you that God doesn’t know what He is doing!
- B. If you ignore God’s Word and the realization or conviction of sin, and choose to *cling* to your sinful emotional survival plan,
1. you continue to shut out Christ and His ability to sustain you.
 2. you will continue to deal with painful realities through your own sinful strategies.
 3. you may resort to more intense forms of control.
 4. you may continue in the same “escapes” or turn to new ones, which may include
 - a. excessive behaviors and addictions.
 - b. divorce, sexual sin, killing oneself.
 - c. fantasies.
 - d. unfruitfulness, apathy, a lazy Christian life style.
 - e. despair, depression, giving up.
 5. you may switch your focus to other idols/identities, which you have already established.

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6. you may create new idols/identities on which to rely.
 7. you may lash out in anger; blaming others and causing problems in an attempt to get the focus off your need for repentance.
 8. you may grow more and more miserable, as a *consequence* or form of God's discipline for your rebellion. However, you may continue to blame others rather than seeing your misery as a consequence of your sinful decisions and responses to God's sovereign plan. (Ps. 32:1-5)
 9. you may, ultimately, harden your heart; numbing and deadening your spirit toward God and others. (Heb. 3:7,8; Prov. 28:14)
- C. If you refuse to obey God, He can make things a whole lot rougher until He brings you into submission! (Jas. 4:6; Heb. 12:3-11; Gal. 6:7,8)

***“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:
sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed,
which is idolatry...since you have taken off your old self
with its practices and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”***

Col. 3:5, 9b,10

The good news is that God desires to free you from these sinful strategies of control. He wants you to *experience* the supernatural life He designed for you when He redeemed you. He has *already* given you the ability, power and resources to do so. See *God's Resources* in *The Controllers* to encourage you to believe that He has abundantly provided everything you need to be freed from the self-life. (John 10:10)

When you are entrenched in these sinful belief and behavior patterns, it is crucial that you build an awareness that *you must participate with God* in your change by choosing to make commitments that will bring a new direction into your life. You must begin to view life from God's perspective instead of viewing everything from your own perspective. You must never forget that God is in the business of changing people, and He wants to bring you to freedom from yourself! (Phil 2:12,13)

***“...Jesus said,
‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.’ ”***

John 8:31,31

***“I run the path of your commands,
for you have set my heart free.”***

Ps. 119:32

Emotional



Capacity
to Feel

Volitional



Capacity
to Choose

Rational



Capacity
to Think

Spiritual



Capacity
to Worship

