

Give to Break Idols

Matthew 6:21-24; Isaiah 44:12-17; Colossians 3:5

We all have idols - things we pursue and trust in to make life satisfying and safe. Very often these idols are revealed by how we spend our money. However, when we deliberately choose to sacrificially share from our wealth, we break the hold of idols over our hearts, and we find contentment, freedom and joy in God.

Why should we become generous and joyful givers?

Reason 1: Giving is an act of worship to our worthy God(Exodus 35-36).

Reason 2: Giving to God's purposes is an investment in eternity.

Reason 3: Giving is the proper response to God's generosity.

Reason 4: Giving destroys our idols.

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

Colossians 3:5

What is an idol?

The man shapes iron into a cutting tool and does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers and working it with his strong arm. He also gets hungry and his strength fails; he drinks no water and becomes weary.

Another shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it with red chalk. He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of man, so that it may sit in a house.

Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow. Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself.

He also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image and falls down before it... He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god."

Isaiah 44:12-17

An idol is anything we use in any way as a substitute for God.

We all have idols:

- Love
- Social approval
- Power
- Security
- Family
- Health
- Happiness

Money reveals our idols.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Matthew 6:21–24

Giving releases us from our idols.

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed...

Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:7–11

When we gaze at God, our idols lose their appeal.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wonderful things; you alone are God.

Psalms 86:8-10