



Session 2: Idols of the Heart

Introduction

- **Review: Session 1 – Beholding and Becoming**
 - Beholding and Becoming
 - Salvation (2 Cor 4:3-6)
 - Growth (2 Cor 3:16-18)
 - Glorification (1 John 3:2)
 - Centrality of the Gospel
 - Legalism: TRUTH without grace
 - License: GRACE without truth
 - Jesus: Full of GRACE *and* TRUTH
- **The Weeds of Your Life**

1. Idolatry: The Sneaky Subtle Suffocating Sin beneath the Sin

- a. Sneaky (2 Corinthians 11:2-3)
- b. Subtle (Romans 1:21-23, 25)
- c. Suffocating (Jeremiah 2:11-13)
- d. Definition: An idol is *anything* or *anyone* that begins to *capture our hearts and minds and affections* more than God.

Piper: “Sin is what we do when we are not satisfied with God.”
- e. Sin beneath the sin

2. Why Is Idolatry such a Big Deal?

- a. Idolatry is worshiping another God
- b. Idolatry blinds you to your sin



James 4:1-2: “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

- c. Idolatry binds you

3. How to Identify Idols

- a. Follow the trail of your time, money, and affection
- b. Take note of your heart during suffering (2 Corinthians 1:8–10)
- c. Look for chaos
- d. Ask some questions
 - i. Am I willing to sin to get it?
 - ii. Am I willing to sin if I think I will lose it?
 - iii. Do I run to it for a refuge instead of God?
- e. **Exercise: Identifying Personal Idols Worksheet**

4. How to Overcome Idolatry

- a. Repentance and Faith
- b. Simple and Pure Devotion to Christ
- c. Expulsive Power of a New Affection (Chalmers)

Chalmers: “There is not one personal transformation in which the heart is left without an object of ultimate beauty and joy. Its desire for one particular object may be conquered, but its desire to have some object is unconquerable. The only way to dispossess the heart of an old affection is by the expulsive power of a new one.”