

This was a Guest Blog Post * by Fight4truth3
What Exactly is Idolatry?

When people think of idolatry, they often think of it in a literal way—by associating it with worshipping objects. While this is indeed idolatry and this form of it is still being practiced today (such as through yoga and crystals/reiki, among other examples), it is important to realize that idolatry is more extensive than one might know. Before further describing the extensiveness of idolatry, it is important to note that it is such a serious sin that it is spoken against in the first of the ten commandments, and further elaborated on in the 2nd commandment. The first commandment is as follows:

“You shall have no other gods before ME”—Exodus 20:3.

Once you place YAHUSHUA (JESUS CHRIST in Hebrew) above everyone, everything, and yourself, you will want to obey all the other commandments and live the path of righteousness described in the Word in general. To place YAHUSHUA first in our love and life means we will do what pleases HIM and fulfill HIS will for our life.

As John 14:15 states, “If you love ME, you will keep MY commandments.” This leads to the explanation of the other form of idolatry.

Did you know that anything or anyone you place above YAHUSHUA

becomes an idol in your life? Examples of this include putting your parents, children, spouse/significant other above YAHUSHUA. This could also include putting your career or hobbies before HIM. The following scripture reiterates this point:

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me”—
Matthew 10:37.

YAHUVEH is a jealous GOD, meaning HE wants all of our heart, as well as our undivided attention and devotion. Without HIM, we can do nothing (see John 1:3 and John 15:5). HE deserves our utmost love, respect, and devotion; our first fruits. Even *wanting* something or someone can spark the formation of idolatry in your life. Consider Psalm 23:1 below:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

When YAHUSHUA is not first in our love and life, we look to other things or people to try and fill the void. A person in this position will *want* what the world has to offer and wonder why the world doesn't deliver. Knowing and trusting that YAHUSHUA is our provision in all things—our needs, joy, peace, and true fulfillment of our desires, we will not be lacking or wanting anything. Wanting HIM alone will give us the true satisfaction that our souls naturally yearn for:

1. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be

afraid"—John 14:27

2. "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore"—Psalm 16:11

3. "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you"—Matthew 6:33

4. "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart"—Psalm 37:4

It is important to note regarding the last verse listed above that we will not always get what we desire in this world. Also, we can sometimes think we know what we want, but it's not what we truly desire because we want it for the wrong reasons. YAHUSHUA knows how to fulfill what we truly desire because HE know our hearts better than us since HE's our creator. HE will provide us with what is aligned with HIS will, and as long as we fully submit to HIS will, we will truly be fulfilled:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope"—Jeremiah 29:11

Sins' Relation to Idolatry

Wanting what you don't have—whether tangible (items, money, a certain kind of home) or intangible (a romantic relationship, a different kind of life) can lead to covetousness if we do not relinquish our control of our wants by laying them at YAHUSHUA's feet and seeking HIS guidance, trusting that HE will fulfill us in the way HE knows best—according to HIS will, not our own will. Covetousness is idolatry:

“Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry”—
Colossians 3:5

*Note that sexual immorality, participating or thinking of anything unholy, and sinful desires in general (evil desire) are also considered idolatry. A person that gets entangled in any sin becomes a slave to sin, rather than rightfully a slave to/servant of YAHUSHUA:

1. “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin”—Romans 6:6

2. “And, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness”—Romans 6:18

Conclusion

YAHUSHUA loves you and only wants the best for you. Only HE knows how to provide the best for you. HE is called the Prince of Peace for a reason (see Isaiah 9:6). Continue seeking HIM while HE may be found.