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Section: Doctrine of Sin (Hamartiology)

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q34. What is the sin of idolatry?**

Idolatry is worshiping or finding hope, identity, significance, purpose, or security in anything other than in God, our Creator.

* **Why Do We Exist?**

**Q15. Why did God make us?** God made us to glorify Him, so His glory would be known and praised.

**Quotes for consideration:** “… it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

“But these are all inadequate, because … the infinite abyss can only be filled by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself.”

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him”

God is not worshiped where He is not treasured and enjoyed!

**Psalm 37:4; Psalm 63:1; Psalm 36:8**

* **The Idol Factory**

Our hearts are ‘idol factories.’

**Romans 1:18-25**

**Exodus 20:3** *“*You shall have no other gods before me.”

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

**1 Corinthians 10:14** Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

* **What is Idolatry?**

We have, in effect, distanced ourselves from the whole idea of idolatry by pushing it out to the extreme cultural and psychological margins of life.

* **The problem:**

**Romans 1:21** For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him ...

**Romans 1:25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

**Because we are wired for worship, we will worship!**

“For when we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything.”

“Every breaking of the commandments is at its core a breaking of the first commandment”

An idol (in its essence) isn’t necessarily something evil; it commonly is something very good.

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

**Epithumia:** Both an evil desire and an over-desire, an excessive desire.

“The evil in our desire typically does not lie in what we want, but that we want it too much.”

* **The Consequences of Idolatry**

**Romans 1:25** because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

* Idolatry means God's judgment **(Romans 1:18)**
* Idolatry leads to slavery
* Idolatry leads to devastation **(Hosea 8:4)**
* Idolatry leads to fear **(Jonah 2:8)**
* Idolatry means a deepening alienation between us & others **(James 4:1-5, John 12:42-43)**
* Idolatry means alienation between us and God **(James 4:3-5)**
* **The Good News**

**James 4:6-8; Isaiah 42:5-8**

“There is not one personal transformation in which the heart is left without an object of ultimate beauty and joy. The heart’s desire for one particular object can 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.”