

Bible Study Series: 1 John – Living As His Light (lesson 13)

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June 10, 2020

Today, we finish our series on 1 John by hearing John's final warning and then pivoting to its application. As we noted last week, John adds a "PS" to this letter that mentions the sin of Idolatry.

Idolatry = the _____ of something or someone other than God as if it were God.

Paul helps us better understand the depth of Idolatry:

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ **For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ **Therefore do not be partners with them.** Ephesians 5:3-7

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶ Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸ But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹ Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹ Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all." Colossians 3:5-11

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, **nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.** ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29

We will be tempted to _____ God by choosing human wisdom over Revealed Truth.

Bottomline:

Idolatry is rampant, we just don't call it that anymore!

In the weeks to come we will look at more examples where the Church has gone astray!

Can we pray that when we see God's truth we will simply obey?