

The _____ of Most Dysfunctional _____

- A. Idolatry redefines _____ in terms of itself

- B. Idolatry generates false _____ and belief systems

- C. Idolatry can eventually suppress your _____ to live

The Single Cause of Distorted _____

- A. Idolatry makes it possible to call _____ good and _____ evil

- B. Idolatry loses all concept of what concerns God

(I wish to extend my appreciation to Tim Keller for his many insights. May his tribe increase)!

**Drowning
in God's
Powerful
Grace**

Doug Muraki



The Hidden Idols in Our Lives

Jonah 4

(This is the 4th in a series of messages on Jonah: Drowning in God's Powerful Grace)

The 17th century English minister David Clarkson preached one of the most comprehensive and searching sermons on idolatry ever written. About idolatry he said, “*Though few will own it, nothing is more common.*” If we think of our soul as a house, he said, “idols are set up in every room, in every faculty.” Tim Keller meant this when he said – “***The human heart is indeed a factory that mass-produces idols.***”

Idolatry is not only one sin among many but what is fundamentally wrong with the human heart. In other words, ***idolatry is always the reason we ever do anything wrong.*** Just think about the Ten Commandments for they begin with a commandment against idolatry. Why does this one come first? Because the fundamental motivation behind law-breaking ***is*** idolatry! We never break the other commandments without breaking the first one. Why would we fail to tell the truth choosing to lie instead? Of course the general answer is “because we are weak and sinful,” but the specific answer is we would not lie unless we first had made something – ***human approval, reputation, power over others, financial advantage*** - more important and valuable to our hearts than the grace and favor of God.

As we come to the final chapter of Jonah we see the powerful sway of idolatry upon lives. What’s more we will see the sway can be stronger over God’s people than it is over those who are not. ***Nineveh repented of its idolatry. Did Jonah?***

Idea: Idolatry is not just a failure to obey God, it is a setting of the whole heart on something besides God. Therefore, God and His powerful grace must become more beautiful to your imagination, more attractive to your heart. Only in this way can our idols be uprooted and the assurance given they will not grow back.

The _____ Behind All

A. Idolatry _____ us farther from _____
(even when we are doing His will)

B. Idolatry when not _____ coalesces into a
_____ compound

1. _____ idol: Desire success more than
_____ to God

2. _____ idol: Exaltation of _____
interests over the spiritual good of our “Ninevites”

3. _____ idol: Intense feelings of superiority