

Reject Cultural Idols

Spirit Empowered Living – Part 2

Life Church St. Louis – March 14, 2021

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Romans 1:25 (NIV2011) They [unbelievers] exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Psalms 106:35-38 (ESV) but they mixed with the nations and learned to do as they did. They served their idols, which became a snare to them. They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to the demons; they poured out innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, and the land was polluted with blood.

Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1. Run the _____ to win

1 Corinthians 9:24 (ESV) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (ESV) Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27 (ESV) So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

2. Recognize the danger of _____

1 Corinthians 10:6-7 (ESV) Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.”

1 Corinthians 10:12 (ESV) Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (ESV) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

3. Flee from _____

1 Corinthians 10:14 (ESV) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 10:15-16 (ESV) I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

1 Corinthians 10:20-21 (ESV) No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (1 Corinthians 9-10)
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to attend the service next week.

How will I obey God's Word this week? _____

Reject Cultural Idols Study Guide

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Intro. Why do you think that the reality of idols is not commonly accepted in America?

Intro. What prompts people to worship created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25)?

Intro. In what ways does the situation of Psalm 106:35-38 parallel the situation in America today?

Intro. How do the idols of our culture tempt us to conform to the world (Romans 12:2)?

1A. What is the prize that is the goal in the race of life for every believer (1 Corinthians 9:24)?

1B. How can we exercise self-control in the race of life (1 Corinthians 9:25)?

1C. How could Paul or any other believer be disqualified from the race (1 Corinthians 9:26-27)?

1D. How can you grow in keeping your focus on the prize at the end of the race?

2A. Why did Paul highlight the idolatry of the Israelites (1 Corinthians 10:6-7)?

2B. What does 1 Corinthians 10:12 warn us of and how can we take heed?

2C. How does the promise of 1 Corinthians 10:13 give you hope?

2D. How can isolation or the peer pressure of society make a person more vulnerable to temptation? What can you do about it?

3A. What does it mean for a believer to flee from idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14)?

3B. What can communion teach us about growing in fellowship with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 10:15-16)?

3C. What is behind worshipping or serving idols according to 1 Corinthians 10:20-21?

3D. What sins and idols in your life do you need the Lord's help to win the victory over?