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## The problems with idolatry

### The inevitable consequence of idolatry.

*Ezekiel 6:9 Then in the nations where they have been carried captive, those who escape will remember me—how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols.*

***They will loathe themselves** for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices.<sup>10</sup> And they will know that I am the LORD; I did not threaten in vain to bring this calamity on them.*

Idolatry: what you revere you resemble,  
either for ruin or for restoration.

Key: Pg 1: idolatry; Pg 2: center

Pg 3: value; Pg. 4: restoration.

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## Why is There Such a Stunning Loss of Meaning?

The Loss of Meaning; the Problem of Idolatry—part 1

Feb. 26, 2023

— *1 John 2:15-17 Do not **love** the world or the things of the world, for all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world.* —

### The loss of meaning

— **In everyday life:** —

— **Nationally:** —

— **Culture wide:** —

— **Through the media:** —

The erosion of meaning is the natural result of idolatry.

These are all symptoms of what the OT calls idolatry.

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## The problem and sin of idolatry

*Exodus 20:1 And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of **anything** in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*

## The definition of idolatry

Idolatry is the replacing of God with anything else at the **center** of our lives in any given moment.

“Whatever your heart clings to and relies upon, that is your God; trust and faith of the heart alone make both God and idol.” – Martin Luther.

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*Exodus 20:4 “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of **anything** in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*

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## The warning about idolatry

*Exodus 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

## The false “hopes” of idolatry

There are four false hopes related to idolatry. They all happen simultaneously, and often, without our awareness.

--“I know what I want and what I need.

--I know how to get what I need, and

--I know how to get what I need from people.

--I don’t need God.”

## Everyday idolatry

Everyone will place **someone, something, a feeling, or an outcome** as their **highest value** or highest hope.

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