

Idol Worship or Idle Worship

Overcoming Obstacles to Passion for God

Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Matthew 22:37-38

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Obstacle #1: Confusing “worship” with “music”

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Matthew 14:32-33

Worship is: Responding in awe to who God is
and to what God does.

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Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

John 9:35-38

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Obstacle #2: Compartmentalizing our lives and viewing worship as simply one of those compartments

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1

Worship is: Surrendering all of our lives to God as instruments of service to him.

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Obstacle #3: Considering worship as something happy people do

At this Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.

Job 1:20-21

Worship is: Reaching out to God regardless of the circumstances.

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I am at rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I will never be shaken.

Psalm 62:1-2

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Obstacle #4: Competing with God for pre-eminence

Do not have other gods besides me. Do not make an idol for yourself in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. You must not bow down to them or worship them, because I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God.

Deuteronomy 5:7-9

Worship is: Relinquishing the control of my life to Jesus Christ.