

Sermon Title: Addiction or Devotion?

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: 1 John 5:21 - "Beloved children, keep yourselves from idols."

1. God's people frequently get off track. We forget who we are and Whose we are. We lose sight of what God's called us to do and how He's called us to do it.
2. When God's grace is embraced rather than rejected, failure isn't final!
3. While God restores our souls, He isn't obligated to restore our opportunities!
4. An accurate understanding of our spiritual condition requires an accurate understanding of idolatry. If we can't recognize the wrong notes in our lives, we won't recognize the correct notes.
5. Our hearts may crave - and the world offers - things that actually intensify our spiritual hunger and create an escalating, chronic need for more of the same! (1 Peter 2:11)
6. Most of what we call addiction is, in fact, idolatry - seeking satisfaction apart from God.
7. There's an antidote for addiction - devotion to God; the faith-based decision to dedicate our heart exclusively to Him. (Romans 12:1-2)
8. Satisfaction only unfolds when we indulge our built-in longing for God.
9. Our problem is not that we desire too much but that we desire too little! [C.S Lewis]
10. Devotion isn't sinless perfection; it's single allegiance.
11. The oldest idolatry is confidence in our own wisdom; the belief we know better than God.
12. The second oldest idolatry is confidence in our own power; the belief we can do better than God.
13. Every desire ultimately turns out to be a desire for God only He can satisfy. (Isaiah 55:1-2; John 4:10-14; John 6:35)

Growth Group Questions

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PRE-GAME

1. What did you enjoy the most and least over the Christmas holiday?
2. Is there anything you hope to accomplish or change in 2020? If so, what is it and why?

KICK-OFF

1. What are some things the world offers us that tend to intensify our need for more of the same? Which of these are you particularly vulnerable to and why?
2. On a scale of 1-10 how would you honestly appraise your devotion to God? Are you satisfied with your level of devotion? Why or why not?
3. Are there areas in your life where you've been prone to entertain the idols of your own wisdom and power in lieu of relying on God's wisdom and power? If so, what are those areas?
4. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today and why?

THE PLAYBOOK / FILM STUDY

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- 1 Peter 2:11
- Matthew 6:24
- Isaiah 55:1-2

PRACTICE

Get alone with God for a time of quiet reflection:

1. Ask yourself (and God) to identify any idols that you may have permitted to hijack or interfere with your devotion to Him. Write them down and with His help develop a plan to remove them. Ask a trusted friend (or small group) to pray for you and help hold you accountable.
2. Prayerfully identify any areas of your daily life where you tend to seek satisfaction apart from God and write them down. Ask God to reveal any areas you may not be aware of. Are you willing to make course corrections? If so, create a series of action steps to begin the process.