

“American Idols”

Rev. Dr. Joe Scruggs, Senior Pastor
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Three Assumptions

- Love is a very _____.
- Love is very _____.
- Apart from God, love can be very _____ and even _____
when people are overly _____ on love.
when people look for love to do _____ than it can.
when people love other people _____ than they love God.

People are overly dependent on human love.

- “You’re nobody until somebody loves you.”
- Boundaries are sacrificed on the altar of a relationship idol.
- I love you so _____.
- A very close second: approval addiction

People look for human love to do more than it can.

- “You complete me.”
- False expectations - growing resentment
- _____ can bring about ultimate “completeness”.
- Love itself becomes an _____.

People love each other too much and don’t love God enough. *Genesis 37:2-4*

- _____ becomes the idol.
- _____, instinctive love can become possessive, demanding, controlling, jealous, suffocating, self-centered and damaging.

“All you need is love.” (?)

A Big Clarification - This is truth _____ you’re looking in the “right place.”

The “right place” is _____ - It is _____ we operate out of God’s Word and our relationship to Him that we can love and be loved in a healthy way. It is through God’s love that . . .

- we can find true _____.
- we can find _____.
- we can keep the _____ we need as we love other people.

Challenge for the Week *Colossians 3:1-2*

So if you’re serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don’t shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that’s where the action is. See things from His perspective.

Contemplation *Colossians 3:1-17, 1st John 4:7-21*

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions and thoughts are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week. We encourage you to talk these over with other Christians that you are close to.

Have you had experiences of “misguided” love? How did you deal with them? Do you feel like you're still dealing with some of them?

In the sermon, Joe mentioned three aspects of misguided love. Can you think of others?

How would you define love?

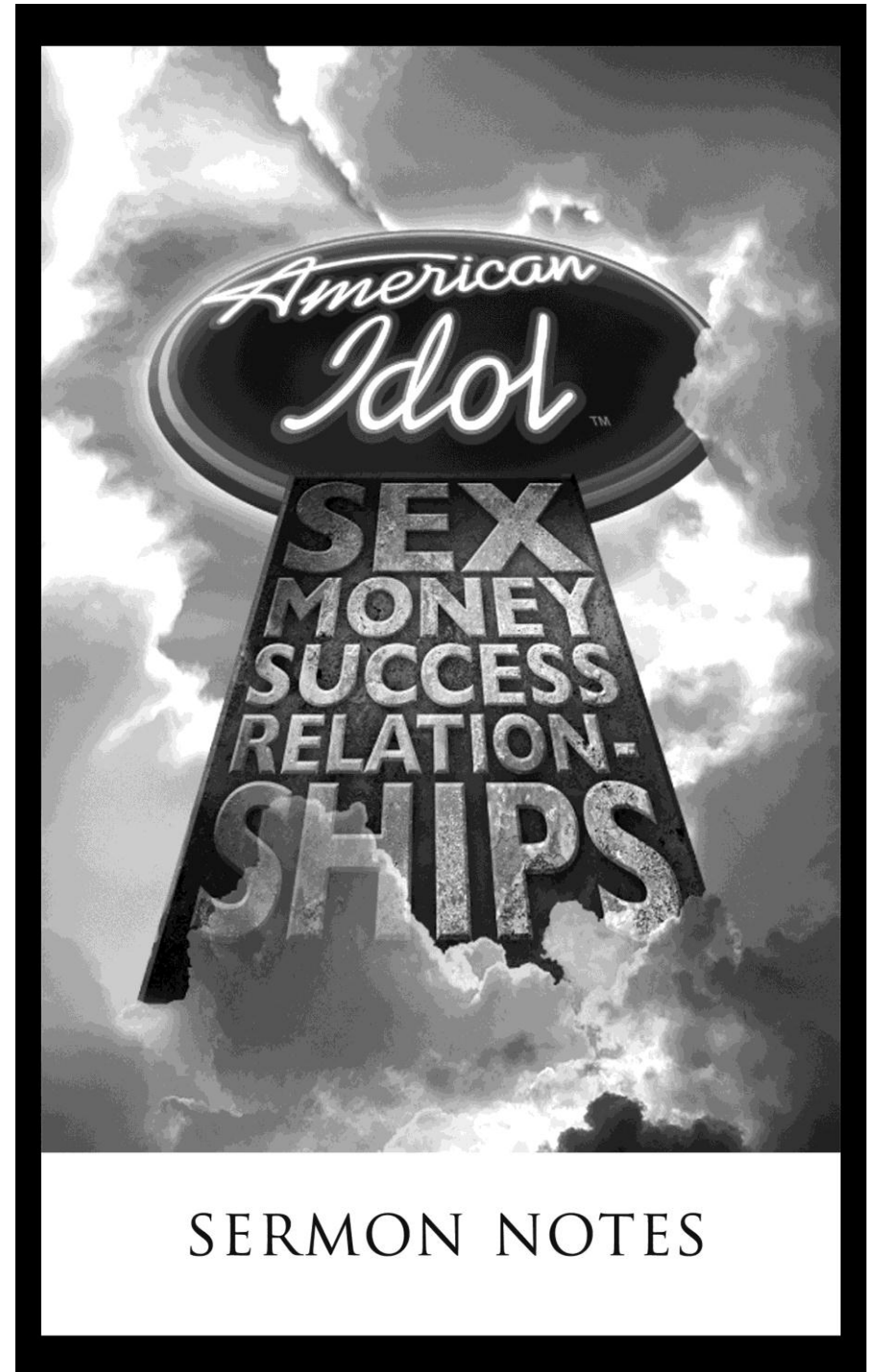
How would you define idolatry? What are some relational idols that are present in our environment?

How would having God as the foundation or anchor of your life change the way you view and “live out” relationships?

What are some of the “good things” that could easily become idols if we don't stay alert?

What is your main “take-away” from this week? How do you plan to live that out?

(Please note-that some of the information presented today was adapted form a book entitled Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller. We would certainly encourage you to read this book as we go through the series. It would be a supplement to any information might be presented)



SERMON NOTES