

“American Idols”

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- Idols are “things” elevated above God in our lives.
- Idols are ultimately either _____.
- Idols are often good things or qualities that become _____.

Can the United States (or any homeland) become an “idol”?

Key Clarifications

- We live in a great country and we need to be “_____”.
- We need to say thanks.

Key Realities

- We can elevate the United States to “idol” status.
- Jesus brings a different Kingdom and Christians have “_____”.
- The value systems of the two kingdoms can often be in _____.

Examples (Matthew 10:2-4)

- Simon the Zealot
- Matthew the Tax Collector
- The Jesus Kingdom prevailed

John 18:33-37

- Kingdoms in conflict

Key Questions

Do we place more _____ in our country for our security and safety than we do in God?

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7*

Do we see God through Americanized eyes as opposed to scriptural eyes?

Where is the line between an appropriate patriotism and putting loyalty to the U.S. above God? Where does the very good become the ultimate good?

We are getting close to the “line” when people or countries who disagree with us automatically become our _____. (Matthew 5:43-48, Ephesians 6:12)

We Are Getting Close to the “Line”

- When we automatically assume something is right simply because it is _____.
- When our focus is basically limited to ourselves and our country.
- We read: *For God so loved the **world** that He gave His only Son.*
- We sing: *He’s got the **whole world** in his hands.*
- God has blessed us - how are we blessing others?

Living in the Tension

- We have a great country, but thanks to Christ, we’re moving toward the greatest country.

- Pray our way through our decisions and commitments and operate out of _____ - face the tension.

Where and how do you operate? Does Jesus fit into your world and your value system or do you fit into His?

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.*

Take some time to pray. Where are you placing your confidence, security and safety? Are you trusting in "chariots and horses"?

Are you seeing Jesus through American filters?

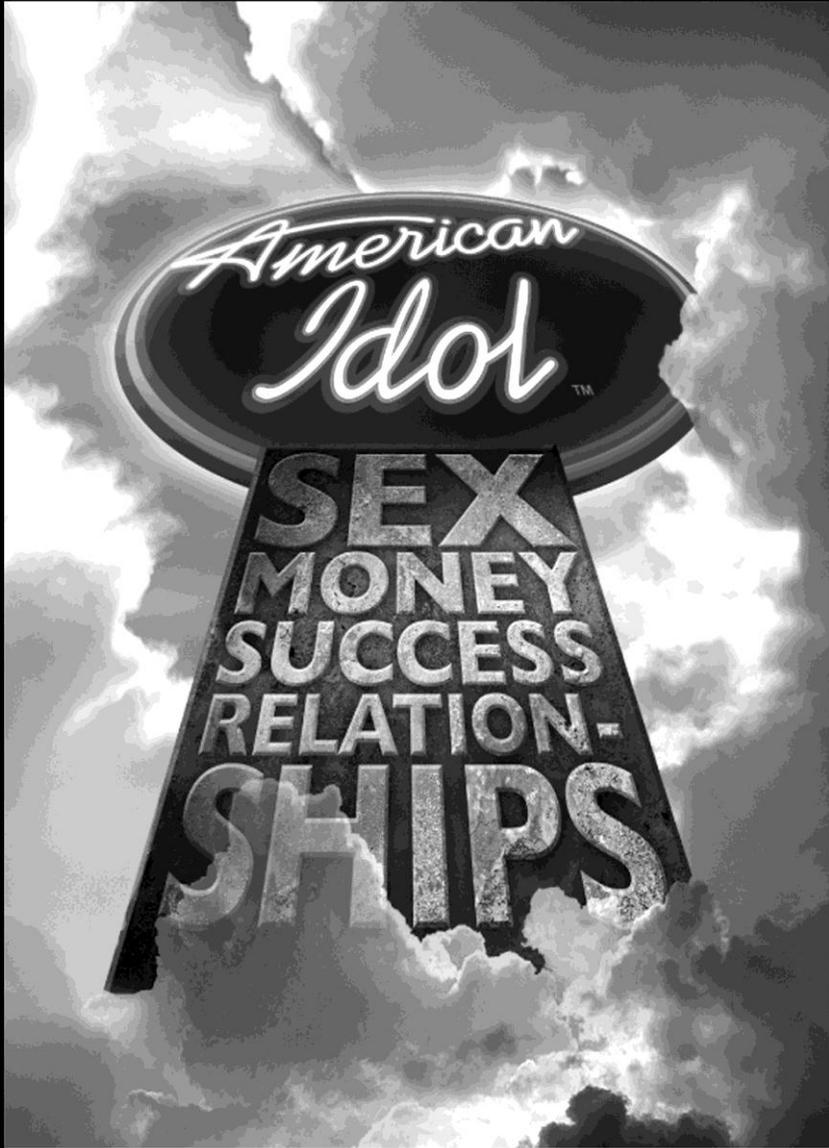
What kingdom are you putting first – Jesus' kingdom or the United States? (Matthew 6:33) Are your kingdoms in conflict?

How can we agree to disagree and not become enemies?

How can we have a more global outlook/outreach and bless others?

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