

“American Idols”

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- Idols are “things” elevated above God in our lives.
- Idols are ultimately either unproductive or destructive.
- The most dangerous idols are good things or qualities that become distorted.
- We look to idols to do things only God can do.

Idols can be very easily become _____ within religion.

We need to check for religious idolatry when:

Doctrinal truth is elevated to an unrighteous level.

- Doctrinal integrity is _____ important.
- Where is it written?

How can Bible knowledge become an idol?

Key Question: Where does this knowledge lead?

- Does it lead to _____ God better and _____ Him more?
- Or does it lead to a sense of _____ over other people?
- Or does it lead to simply _____ knowledge?

Misguided Doctrine

Knowledge in and of itself can't save us.

We need to check for religious idolatry when:

We feel like we're better than people who aren't Christians.

- Better _____ is not better _____.
- Christians should know that we are all needy-and in trouble.
- The difference is we have _____ to and _____ Christ. This should lead to compassion, kindness, and sadness.

We need to check for religious idolatry when:

We focus on _____ and not _____.

Many believe we are called “perform the truth”.

Relationship is different. It is not:

- “_____” the truth.
- Simply knowing _____ something or someone. Simply doing nice things (keeping rules).
- Relationship is truly knowing and being known by someone.

Living a Christian life style is not the same as living the Christian life. The Christian life involves knowing God. The Christian life is lived from the inside out, not outside in.

- Search our heart for religious idols. We just might need to “lose our religion”.
- Does our faith begin with _____?

Have we asked? *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.* Revelation 3:20

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 are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week.

Over the past four weeks, we have talked about “idols” that slip into our lives. How would you define an “idol”?

Over the past weeks, we have described four possible idols—love, patriotism, financial security, and religion. What idol represents the greatest temptation for you personally? Is it something other than these?

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

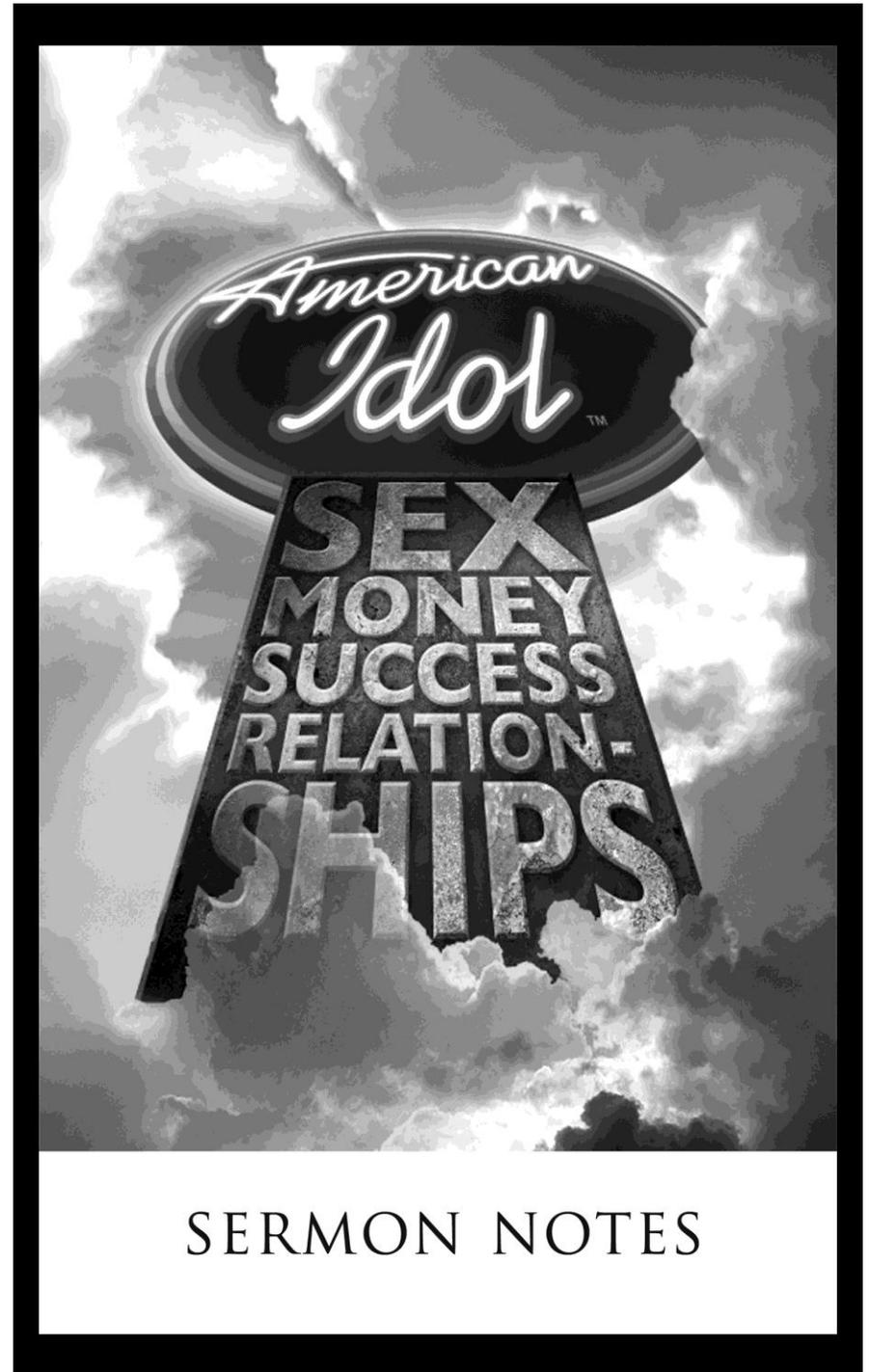
Does your faith have a different foundation than God's grace? If so, what is it?

What is the difference in knowing Christ and knowing about Him? Do you know Christ personally or do you simply know about Him?

Which of the four religious idols Joe mentioned is the most easily misunderstood in today's culture?

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 from a book entitled Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller. We would certainly encourage you to read this book as we conclude this series. It would be a supplement to any information that was presented.)



SERMON NOTES