

LESSON THREE:

FIRST PLACE BELONGS TO GOD (FLEE IDOLATRY)

Life in the Word Series:
Unequally Yoked
(Avoiding Mismatched Relationships)



“An idol is anything we want more than God, anything we rely on more than God, anything we look to for greater fulfillment than God. Idolatry is thus the hidden sin driving all other sins.”

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Three Scripture References Regarding Idols:

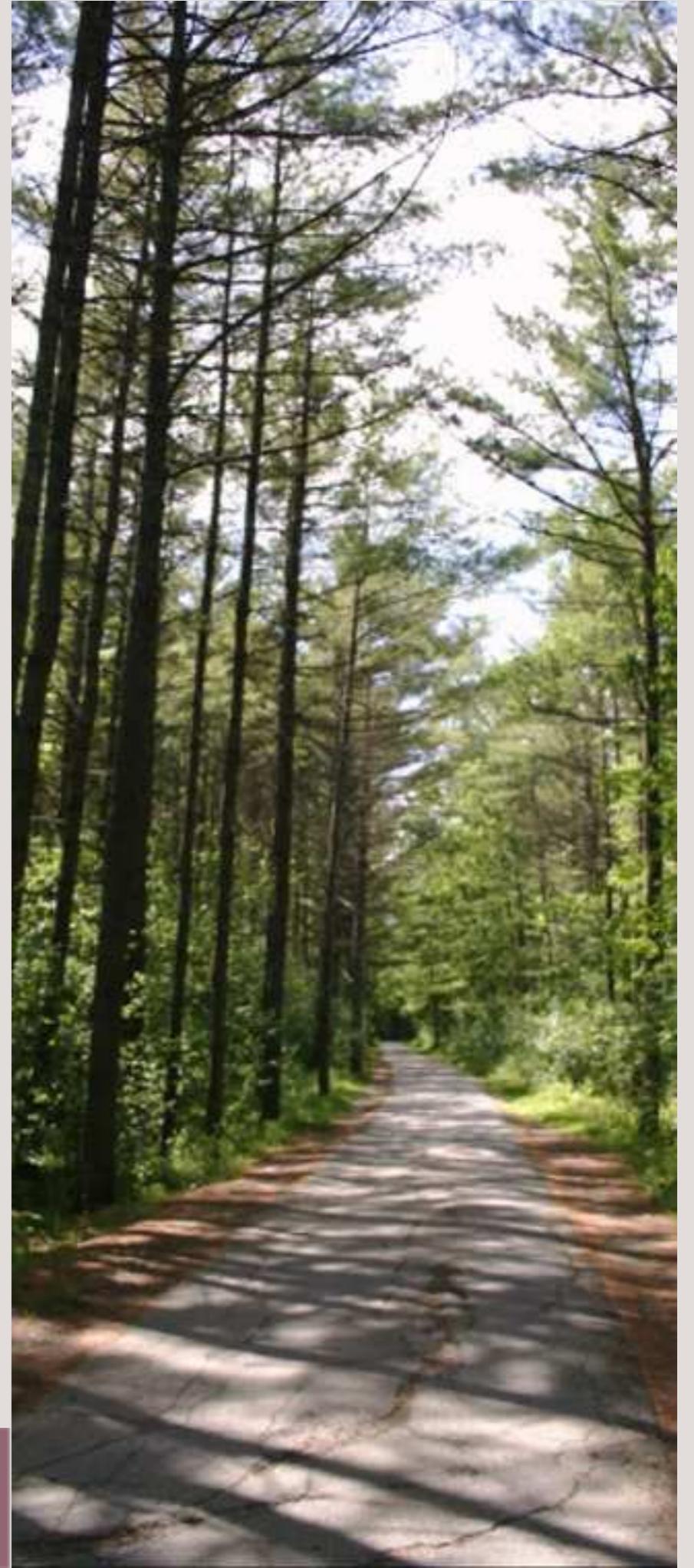
II CORINTHIANS 6:16

And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? for we are a temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.



I CORINTHIANS 10:14 (AMP)

Therefore, my beloved, run
[keep far, far away] from [any
sort of] idolatry
[and that includes loving
anything more than God, or
participating in anything
that leads to sin and
enslaves the soul].



I JOHN 5:21

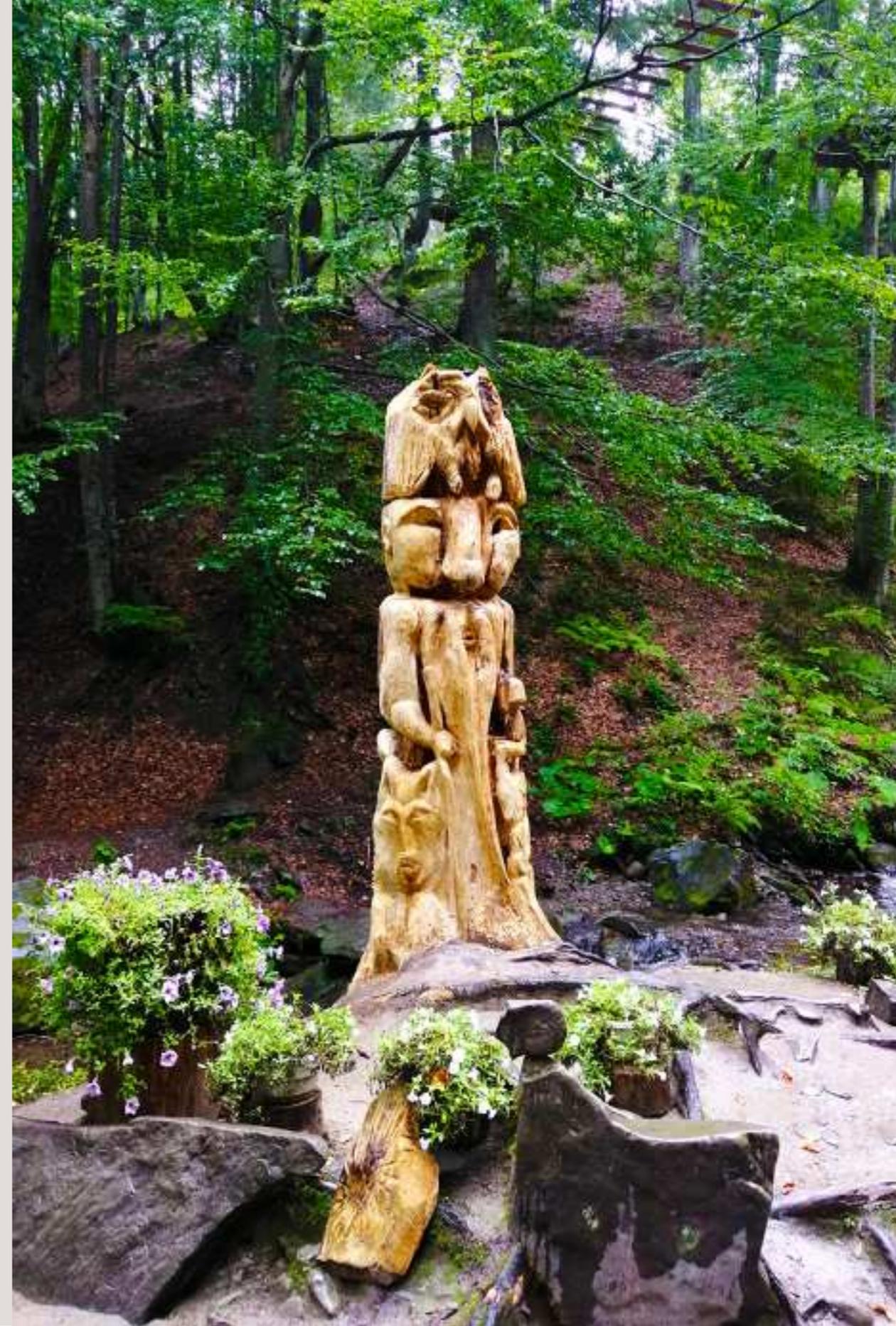
Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.



**Every Christian must
decide if he or she is
influencing the world
or if the world is
influencing him or her
and then make
choices accordingly.**



**An IDOL is when
something or
someone becomes
more important to us
than God.**



FOUR QUESTIONS:

1. What do our thoughts and imaginations run to?
2. How do we spend our money?
3. How do we respond to unanswered prayer?
4. What are our most uncontrollable emotions?

Exodus 20:4-6

**The Second of the
Ten Commandments**

**You shall not make
for yourself a carved
image, or any likeness
of anything that is in
heaven above, or
that is in the earth
beneath, or that is in
the water under the
earth.**



You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



Three Common Characteristics of Idols:

1. Idols Are Something We Make.



DEUTERONOMY 6:10,12

And when the Lord your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers ...and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the Lord, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.



2. Idols Are Something We Thank.



PSALM 96:4-5

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the Lord made the heavens.



3. Idols Are Something We Love More Than God.



“Idolatry confuses the Creator with the creation and regards Yahweh, the One who is to be worshiped, as a resource that exists for our convenience and pleasure.”

Colin Smith



COLOSSIANS 3:5

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.



I John 5:21

**Guard Yourself
Against Idols**

**The God or god we
worship dictates our
actions and reactions.**



Seven Modern Day Idols

1. The Modern Day Idol of Identity



2. The Modern Day Idol of Money and Materialism



3. The Modern Day Idol of Jobs/Status



4. The Modern Day Idol of Physical Appearance



5. The Modern Day Idol of Entertainment



6. The Modern Day Idol of Sex



7. The Modern Day Idol of Phones/Technology



FOUR QUESTIONS TO IDENTIFY IDOLS IN YOUR LIFE:

1. Where Do I Spend My Time?
2. Where Do I Spend My Money?
3. Where Do I Get My Joy?
4. What's Always On My Mind?



**“We make a
god out of
whatever we
find most joy in.
So, find your joy
and be done
with idolatry.”**

Follow Up Chat Questions:

1. What is your definition of an idol?
2. Name a scripture reference that speaks about idols or idolatry.
3. Name three common characteristics of idols.
4. How might you guard yourself against idols?
5. List the seven modern day idols discussed in today's lesson.
6. What are the four questions to ask yourself to help you identify idols in your life? Which question is most concerning?
7. What is your greatest takeaway from today's lesson?