

The Idol of Me

Text: Genesis 6:5-9

Introduction:

I. The First of The Ten Commandments

- A. Exodus 20:1–4 (NKJV) — 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 “You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image—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
- B. Do you notice the difference between the first and second?—No other gods and then no graven image.
- C. Gods aren’t only found in the form of images, but are first found in the heart.

II. The Worst Idol of All is the Idol of Me.

- A. It is the heart that says my desires matter most.
- B. It is the eyes who see and desire.
- C. It is the flesh that says I want what I want.
- D. It is the pride that refuses humility, but exalts itself over others.

III. The idol of me is the first idol we see on display in the Bible.

Discussion:

I. Adam & Eve (Gen. 3:1-7)

- A. “You Will Not” is always the serpent’s call.
- B. The flesh, the eyes, the pride are all part of my desire to be my own God.
- C. Genesis 3:11 (NKJV) — 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?”

II. Cain & Abel (Gen. 4:1-9)

- A. Cain’s sacrifice was not received, but Abel’s was.
 1. The difference doesn’t seem to be in the type of offering but the heart of the offering.
 2. Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV) — 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he

was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

- B. But Cain is angry (no doubt a little jealous too).
 - 1. But why is he angry?
 - 2. Is it not his heart that is the cause?
- C. Instead of humbling himself before God, Cain exercises his wrath upon his brother taking his life; Thus taking into his hands a right only God possesses.
 - 1. Romans 12:19 (NKJV) — 19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.
- D. And don’t forget Lamech in this whole mix (Gen. 4:23-24).

III. The Men of the Earth (Gen. 6:5-9)

- A. Wickedness filled their hearts, a reality that can only exist when goodness, when God is cast out of the heart of man (cf. Rom. 1:18-32).
 - 1. Especially notice this text from Romans 1:20-23;
 - 2. Romans 1:20–23 (NKJV) — 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
- B. They replaced God with their own hearts, they became their own idols and the result was destruction.
- C. In fact, what separated Noah: “He walked with God” (v. 9).

IV. The Tower of Babel (11:1-9)

- A. A Name for Man, Without Regard for God (v. 4)
 - 1. God had from the beginning blessed man, told him to multiply and fill the earth.
 - 2. Here, mankind has the intention of settling and staying put in order to make a name for themselves.
- B. The end result is that that God separates their languages and scatters them.

Conclusion:**I. Idol of Me**

- A.** Adam & Eve wanted to be their own masters, indulging their own pleasures.
- B.** Cain wanted vengeance not repentance.
- C.** Men of the earth chose to indulge their wicked desires instead of walking with God.
- D.** The descendants of Noah chose to build a name for themselves instead of fulfilling God's purpose for man in the earth.

II. The Call of The Gospel

- A.** The Gospel calls us to abandon the one idol that we all can so easily worship and serve—Me, Myself, and I.
- B.** Luke 9:23–26 (NKJV) — 23 Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. 24 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? 26 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.
- C.** Matthew 22:34–40 (NKJV) — 34 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” 37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”
- D.** Romans 6:1–8 (NKJV) — 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His

resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,