

No Other Gods Cory Waddell

These verses are the first two of God's divine 10 Commandments given to the people of Israel at Mt. Sinai. They serve as the foundational truths for all followers of God, whether under Mosaic Law or the Christian covenant. YHWH is the only one who occupies the position of God in our lives. Nothing/No one else can function in this role. All believers understand this. We also know, and frequently warn one another, of the ease with which something can become an idol in our lives. Practically every class on the 10 Commandments will ask, "What are some things that can become idols?" and we follow with the classic answers. "Possessions, jobs, power, etc."

However, a piece of that conversation that is often lacking centers on how we know if something is becoming an idol or not. It's one thing to say, "An idol is something other than God you worship or that takes higher priority." While this is correct, it is often ambiguous enough that we all say, "Well, that's not happening in my life." Would you really know if it was? How would you know? Let's consider a few pointed characteristics of the role of "God" in our lives that can serve as a good measure of whether YHWH is really on our throne or not.

Your "God" Sets The Direction For Your Life. In other words, our "God" is the basis for the decisions we make and the way we live. We shape our actions around the pursuit of our "God." He/It is what we consult when deciding how to use our resources. The pleasure of our "God" will be the lens through which we assess the world. A career can be our "God" if every decision is based on how it will affect our standing in the company or the advancement path. Family can become an idol if we allow our kids' activities to devour all our resources and times or we determine right and wrong based on our spouse's attitude. YHWH is our God when his will and word are the foundation of all our life. What would serve HIM best? What does HE say I should do?

Your "God" Provides Your Sense Of Security. - This is the question of what it takes for you to feel safe for the present and future. Pick any part of your life (a relationship, possession, health, etc.) and ask, "If I lost this, would I be ok?" I don't mean, would it not hurt. Would you still be ok, able to exist and thrive in life, albeit changed? That's how you know where your security lies. Some of us place America as our security. If freedom falls, then I won't be ok. We do the same with jobs, health, and relationships. If our sense of safety is overtly tied to these things, then maybe they are becoming an idol.

You Speak About Your "God" With Reverence. The third commandment is "Do not take God's name in vain." This means we don't speak God's name in a flippant, disrespectful ways. We can know what our "God" is based on the language we use to describe it or what we allow others to say. This is not the same as demanding someone show respect for your parents. ("Don't talk about my momma that way!") Being respectful is a characteristic of God's followers. What I'm referencing here is the kind of language that elevates to a much higher level. "This is (They are) my world! I don't know what I'd do without it (them)!" Such language may be a bit hyperbolic in nature...but not always. Consider the contrast when we gush over a relationship or possession, but never have that same reaction when speaking of the goodness of God. Instead, we have the same tones and language for the Creator that we do for an effective kitchen appliance or favorite sweater. What/Who is it that you speak with great reverence about? If the language is high enough, maybe it's becoming an idol.

Obviously, these are traits that could be expounded upon much more, but they serve as a good starting point in the conversation. If we, as people of God, are committed to having no other gods, then we need to know the warning signs when our relationship to the material world is getting out of balance. We need to know if someone or something else is taking over the role of "God" in our lives. As we evaluate such relationships, perhaps the biggest question is, "If something were becoming an idol, could you openly admit it and change what needs to be changed?"

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

- Bekah Vining, West Blocton resident, has breast cancer. She is young.
- Alexis Hughes, Heather's cousin, has been diagnosed with GBS.
- Harry Green, member of the Church, has cancer and is on ventilator.
- Eric Hiott blood clot in the brain after heart surgery
- Cindy Rooker has a lot of health struggles.
- Lesa Manzella, friend of Debbie, has an upcoming surgery
- Yvonne Cicero's great aunt Nell Tomlin is starting radiation for cancer.
- Bridgett Hobson friend of Juanita, her brain tumor is back.
- Sarah Martin, Heather's Mom, recovery from knee surgery
- Ladon Bracken, friend of Ramays, diagnosed with bone cancer
- Marilynn Shackelford health struggles
- Corah Kinard 3 year old is recovering and doing well
- SHANE ACKER'S DAD, Eddie, still in hospital with a stomach abscess
- Kyson Farley, Donna Dailey's grandnephew, has kidney cancer and is on Chemo
- KEN AND BETTY RAMAY and health struggles
- TOM NOLAN and his health
- APRIL HOWTON, friend of Bethany, was diagnosed with Breast cancer
- RHONDA HOLISTER was diagnosed with cancer. Recovering from surgery.
- SHIRLENE CARGILE, friend of Barry, her cancer has come back
- JESS, Ruth Edward's DIL, her recovery from back surgery
- KENZI SWINDLE, 6 years old, is fighting cancer. Treatment plan changing.
- BARBIE SMITH'S FATHER and all of health issues

ATTENDANCE

Worship A.M. ... 68
Worship P.M. 36
Wed P.M.41

CONTRIBUTION

Last Week.....\$2,120.00
BUDGET
Weekly.....\$3,000.00

