

## Sermon Handout

### “Dangerous Idols”

Exodus 20:3-6

- I.** Idols are nothing, only fools worship them
  - A.** They are the work of human hands Is 37:19  
Ps 115:1-8  
Ps 135:15-18
  - B.** They have no value or status Hab 2:18  
Elijah mocked them I Kg 25:29  
Ps 96:5 worthless idols contrasted w/ YHWH (*cf.* I Cor 8:1-6)
  - C.** They result from futile thinking Rom 1:21-23  
Is 44:13-19  
See Calvin, *Institutes*, Vol 1, p. 383 (Battles transl.)
- II.** Christians are directed to avoid idolatry
  - A.** “Keep yourselves from idols I Jn 5:21  
Idolatry is broadly defined Eph 5:5; Col 3:5  
That which becomes the focus of our affections
  - B.** Gentile converts warned against idolatry Acts 15:19-21  
The warning included ritual prostitution – pagan creationism
  - C.** The focus of our worship must be God alone  
That which “depicts” him is not to be worshipped  
No worship directed towards God’s appointed symbols
- III.** The covenant solution to idolatry
  - A.** Mercy promised to those who love God Ex 20:6  
God’s love (as mercy) is poured out on those who love him  
Jn 3:16-17, 36
  - B.** The love command confirms this Dt 6:4-6  
Mk 12:28-34 – true worship is not localized in the rituals  
It is found in covenant-keeping (*cf.* Jn 4:19-24)
  - C.** Idolatry & adultery (e.g. Hos 4:12-14; Eph 5:31-32)  
A singular devotion is called for in worship as in marriage  
Marriage covenant – one man, one woman  
Covenant of grace – one God, one bride