



Why does God give us a clear and straight forward command of not entertaining idols in our life?

Jeremiah 9:23-24: "Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty *man* glory in his might, nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD."

Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

1Cor 10:21: "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons."

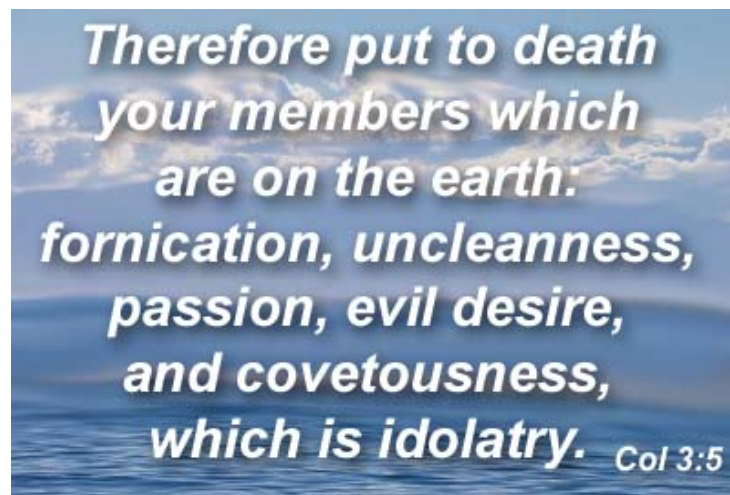
How then do we honor and worship the only true God in our life?

1John 2:15-16: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world."

Do I understand, as Proverbs 1:7 says that, "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction"?

Or 1Cor. 3:19: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."?
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How does the Word of God define the idols of the world?

Gal. 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like."

What then will happen to those who worship the flesh rather than God?

Rev. 21:8: "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

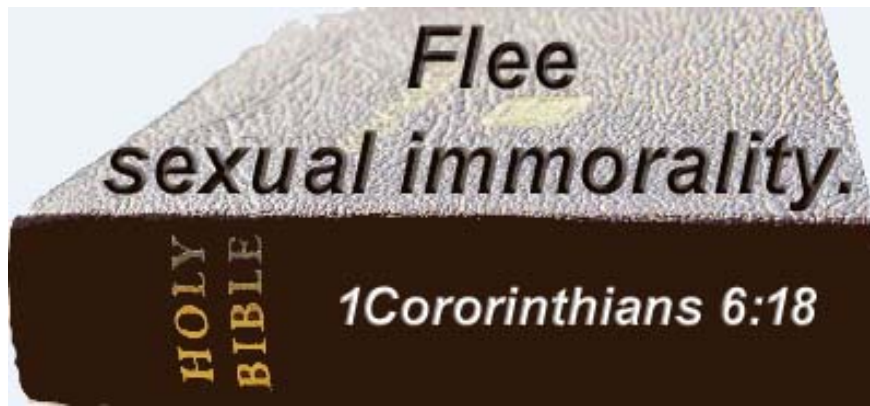
How should we live to worship God only?

Titus 2:11-12: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."

1Peter 4:1-2: "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

Will we, as Rom 13:14 says, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts?"

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Sexual perversions have obviously proliferated in this world, to the point of being openly committed and without restraint.

To that effect, 1Cor. 6:18 adds, "Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."

As well, sexual perversions are a form of idolatry, as 1Cor 6:9-10 states, "Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."

How else does scripture warn us against sexual perversions?

1Cor 5:11: "But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, not even to eat with such a person."

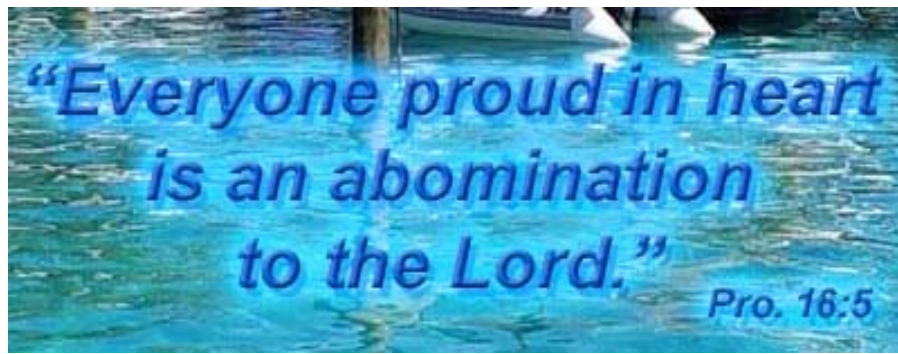
As such, James 4:4 add, "Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

And the result is:

Eph 5:5: "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

Do we realize, as Mat. 15:19 says, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies"?

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What does the Word of God say about pride?

1John 2:16: "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world."

Pro. 16:18: "Pride *goes* before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

Pro. 26:12: "Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? *There is* more hope for a fool than for him."

Luke 18:10-14: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The reason Jesus said in Mat. 23:27: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men's* bones and all uncleanness."

What does God see in my heart right now?

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What does scripture say about the love of money?

1Tim. 6:9-10: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

Rev. 3:17: "You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

What must we do instead?

Mat 6:19-21: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

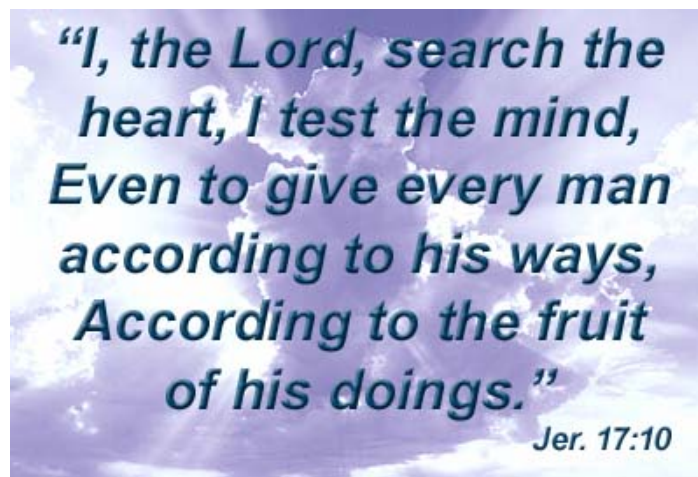
1Tim 6:17: "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God."

Pro. 23:4: "Do not overwork to be rich."

Heb 13:5: "*Let your* conduct *be* without covetousness; *be* content with such things as you have."

Is my focus on worshipping God, or is money a god in my life?

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What can idolaters expect from God?

Gal. 6:7-8: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Eph 5:5: “For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

Rom. 1:24: “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves.”

And the warning is:

James 4:4: “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

John 8:34: “Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”

Why must our hearts be focused on Christ?

Eph 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Mark 8:36: “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?”

Do I understand the seriousness of entertaining idols in my heart?

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***“Put on the Lord
Jesus Christ, and
make no provision
for the flesh,
to fulfill its lusts.”***

Rom. 13:14

How does the Word of God compel us to reject idols in our life?

Col. 3:2: “Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Titus 2:11-12: “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”

Rom. 12:2: “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Gal. 5:16: “Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Eph. 5:11: “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

Eph. 5:6: “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

James 4:8: “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

Why?

2Cor 10:4-5: “For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

How resolved and steadfast am I to follow Christ rather than letting the world control me?

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