

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

Romans 1:18-25

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE INEVITABILITY OF IDOLATRY
2. THE EFFECTS OF IDOLATRY
3. THE END OF IDOLATRY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. We started a new series this week called "Law School" where we will be looking at the ten commandments. The thesis statement behind this whole series is this: *true freedom is not the absence of restrictions; it is the presence of the right restrictions*. What comes to mind when you think about God's law? Does the law make you think more of freedom or restriction?
3. This week we looked at the first commandment: "Thou shalt have no other God's before me." An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. What would you say are some of the more common idols in our culture?
4. Idolatry always leads to dehumanization. It controls what you see (Rom. 1:21), it controls what you do (Rom. 1:25) and it controls your desires (Rom. 1:24). What are some examples of these effects? Read Psalm 135:15-18 together and discuss the ways that you've seen the effects of idolatry in your own life.
5. In order to be dealt with, idols have to be identified. Take some time to reflect and identify the specific idols in your life using the following guides.
 - **LOOK AT YOUR IMAGINATION:** Where does your mind go when you have time to think? What do you daydream about? What do you worry about?
 - **LOOK AT HOW YOU RESPOND TO FRUSTRATED HOPES AND UNANSWERED PRAYER:** Disappointment is normal, but has your disappointment ever led to a loss of identity or purpose in life?
 - **LOOK AT YOUR MOST UNCONTROLLABLE EMOTIONS:** Where do you experience your most extreme emotions? Have you over-reacted to anything recently? What caused it? Why do you think you responded so strongly?
6. An idol's power is broken in our lives once we see that nothing compares to Jesus. What are some ways you struggle to see Jesus as being *that* good? What has helped you see the goodness of Jesus more clearly?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: Jesus did what no idol will ever do for us. Idols demand our lives. Jesus gave us His.