

Dgroup Discussion Guide for February 26, 2017

## Who is Number 1?

Scripture: **EXODUS 20 : 1- 5**

***And God spoke all these words:<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before<sup>me</sup> me.<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.***

There are many things in this world that holds our attention and interest. These are things that can be needs or sometimes wants. But the question lies in – does this thing come between me and God? Do I prioritize these before God? If the answer to that is yes, then this is Idolatry.

What is an idol? D.M. Lloyd Jones says “An idol is anything in our lives that occupies the place that should be occupied by God alone.”

### **Idolatry is Adultery.**

#### The Worship of the Wrong god

Both in Exodus 20:2 and in Isaiah 45:5 God says “Besides Me there is no other God”. And despite knowing this what does man do? Romans 1:21 -23 tells us that despite of our knowledge of God, our foolish hearts led us to form images of god and then we end up exchanging the glory of an incorruptible God for an image of corruptible beings. This idolatry begins with an ungrateful heart that darkens. This will make us proud and foolish, which later ends in the worship of the created and not the Creator.

Where are these idols born? Hosea 5:4 says ***Their wicked deeds do not allow them to return to their God; because a spirit of idolatry controls their heart, and they do not acknowledge the Lord.*** This emphasizes that idolatry is really an issue of the heart. The bible also tells us in Jeremiah 17:9 that ***The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.*** That is why we should be wary of anything that occupies our heart. Because that is our idol. That is our treasure. That is what is taking the place of God in our hearts and in our lives.

James 4:4 reiterates ***You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*** We are supposed to be IN the world but not OF the world. As followers of Jesus, we should always bear in mind that we are not of this world. We are merely passers by.

## The Worship of the True God in the Wrong Way

John 4:23-24 says ***But an hour is coming and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers.*** Our worship of God should be out of faith. We should know what it means to worship God based on His Word. These are the worshippers that God desires.

In Ezekiel 6:9 God says . . . ***how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me and by their eyes which played harlot after their idols . . .*** When we give credit to someone or something else for a blessing given to us by God. When we acknowledge other or ourselves and forget about God's hand in our life. This is also idolatry.

*"The sin of idolatry that plagues the modern world is a "me first" attitude that gives God the leftovers in life."*

Christianity should be simple – Love God with all your heart, your mind, your soul and your might. Love others as you love yourself. This is the Gospel in action. Paul tells us in 2 Cor 11:1-3 let our ***minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*** We keep trying to make things complicated for us. . . but in the end what really counts is Who is number ONE in our life? There should only be one. And it should be ONLY GOD.

### **APPLICATION:**

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Who is your god? Who is number 1 in your heart?

#### Test of Devotion

- What is the object of your highest devotion?
- What do you first think of when you wake up?
- How do you spend your money? Your time?

#### Test of Emotions

- What is it that if you lose or don't have, your life becomes meaningless? You become depressed?
- What makes you very angry? Anxious?
- What makes you really happy?

#### Test of Obedience

- Who do you really obey?
- What causes you to compromise?
- What is your highest priority?

#### Test of Security

- What are you depending on for your future?
- What is the basis of your self-worth?
- What are you counting on for your salvation?

### **PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.