

**Series: American Idols**

**Idol Words  
Exodus 20:1-6**

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1. “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. 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 fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.”  
Exodus 20:3-5
  
- I. The Origin of an Idol. Jeremiah 10:3, “For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.”
  - A. Anything manmade that becomes the ultimate concern of life is an idol.
  - B. Do we have idols in America?
    1. “They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator - who is forever praised. Amen.” Romans 1:25
  
- II. The Nature of an Idol. Jeremiah 10:5, “Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk.”
  - A. When people worship gods created by man, what kind of gods do they worship?
  - B. The outcome of replacing God with idol worship:
    1. Idols will disappoint you.
      - a. “Those who make idols are disillusioned because the gods they made are false and lifeless.” Jeremiah 10:14
    2. Idols will dominate you.
      - a. “You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.” 1 Corinthians 12:2
    3. Idols will destroy you.
      - a. “Those who make idols will be like them, and so will all who trust in them.” Psalm 115:8
  
- III. The Value of an Idol. Jeremiah 10:15, “They are worthless, the objects of mockery; when their judgment comes, they will perish.”
  - A. The ultimate worth of such idols is summarized in one word, emptiness.
    1. “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15
  - B. Let me ask you a few questions to help identify who you worship.