

## Life's Examples

Scripture: I Corinthians 10:6-13 (New Living Translation)

Date: March 16, 2021

Message: *These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did, or worship idols as some of them did.*

*I Corinthians 10:6-7a*

After reading and rereading this passage, two things come to mind. First, history repeats itself. Second, I hear the voices of my parents/grandparents telling me to learn from my ancestor's mistakes. History has repeated itself many times. It is impossible to name every event, however a few examples are Economic Crashes, Assassinations, and yes, Pandemics. COVID-19 is not the first pandemic the nation has faced. AIDS is another pandemic that started four decades ago and continues to claim lives today. AIDS originated in Africa as early as 1920 and began to spread worldwide in the 80's.

Idol worshipping is another event in history that seems to continue to be passed down from generation to generation. Here is a list of 6 modern day idols:

- **Our Identity:** It is easy to place our identity in something or someone other than God. Social media following, our position at work, our abilities/skills, or the achievements may have their identity wrapped up in the wrong thing. Not only is this an idol, but it is a tough way to live.
- **Money/Consumerism:** It doesn't matter if you have money or are broke. The pursuit of money and the acquisition of things is an idol for many in our culture. Many people trust their money more than they trust God. Money is not bad; it is a tool. Like any tool, you need to use it correctly or it can cause much damage. Money isn't the problem; the way we use and view it that can become a problem.
- **Entertainment:** Entertainment comes in many forms - from Netflix to vacations, from video games to podcasts. We love entertainment in all forms. As with other modern-day idols, entertainment is not all bad. When the obsession with the search for entertainment and the chase for the best experiences becomes more important than God, it becomes an idol.
- **Sex:** Sex has become an obsession in our culture. It is everywhere. We have taken a gift from God and made it into a god of our lives.
- **Comfort:** There is an endless list of products that promise to simplify and add comfort to our life. Our lives appear to be easier and more comfortable than at any other time in history. Jesus presents followers with a very different narrative. He states that his followers will face trials, persecution, and difficulty. Comfort isn't all bad. Damage is done when the pursuit for comfort is the main focus in life. When comfort is an idol, we will struggle when God calls us to something difficult.
- **Our phones:** Many simply cannot live without their phone or an online presence. The actual phone or social media presence is not the problem. The value placed on this technology is. If we can't sit in silence for 5 minutes without refreshing our newsfeed, we might have an idol.

There are 4 questions to ask if something has become an idol? Where do I spend my time? Where do I spend my money? Where do I get my joy? What is always on my mind? Think about these questions. Don't let anything, even a good thing, take the place of God in our life.

Prayer: *Heavenly Father help us in our Daily lives to put you before any idols we may have today. Help us to use them correctly and for the purpose you created them for. Amen.*

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