

To Love the World, Part 2

1 Jn 5:21 — What is an idol? It stems from self-love, not self-denial (Lk 9:23-26).
What must one hate in order to be a disciple, and what must one not hate? (Jn 12:25; Lk 14:26; 1 Jn 3:15; 4:20)

The very last word for John was, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.”

Idol is #1497, meaning *image*, as in *imagination*, i.e., what you set your mind upon as a desire to hear, see, engage in, as sports of the world, or former times in school. It could be anything imaginable, anything capable of being imagined or conceived in the mind, whether real or imaginary, such as professional football, or former college or high school teams, etc. Sports in general tend to be fanciful, visionary, fantastic (i.e., remote from reality).

Imagination is the act or power of forming a mental image of something not present to the senses, such as football or other sports in the world, which may be appealing to one’s emotions. Pretty soon you’re having an emotional affair with it, committing emotional adultery, taking your affections off of your wife or children, or the breaking of bread.

For us, an idol in 1 Jn 5:21 is the representation or symbol of an object of worship or adoration, a likeness of something totally contrary to the Kingdom of God, which only a pretender or imposter could have any interest in. Sports or other things of the world are enchanted phantoms,¹ false conceptions of the essential nature of something, which a son of God would not have any interest in whatsoever — the “useless things” of the world (#3152, Acts 14:15), its worthless futilities (Eph 4:17; 2 Pet 2:18; Rom 8:20).

Sports as an idol appeals to the flesh which has not died in the waters. An idolater is a person who admires what is the antithesis of the Kingdom of God, which all disciples

¹ *Phantom* — a figment of the imagination.

who have eternal life seek first for. An idolater is one who seeks for his soul's satisfaction in knowing who wins the game of a sport of the world (1 Jn 2:15; Rom 5:5).

Idolatry is an immoderate attachment to a thing of the world, giving a euphoric feeling, as one can idolize the Patriots, etc. Idolatry is being enchanted by a phantom, as being influenced by the spirit of worldly sports. Such a one has been *touched* as in 1 Jn 5:18. Satan has exerted a modifying influence on him, attaching himself to the one who is enchanted by the worldly influence, which should have passed away in the waters of baptism (2 Cor 5:17). Oddly, he has again come under the influence of charms and incantations, and is bewitched. He is attracted and moved or aroused to an admiration of something a disciple would have nothing to do with, which in reality is nothing more than a phantom as far as the eternal purpose of God is concerned.

So anything that detracts from the Kingdom of God is an idol, which is actually an enchanted phantom appealing to one's emotional aspect, affecting all other aspects of one's personality (Eph 4:15; Col 2:19), causing deformity and malignant growth to the point of being a worthless person who claims to be God's son (Rom 8:14).

So are you being led by the Spirit to watch your favorite football team, which you can shout your head off or grind your teeth over, but be strangely unemotional about your brother or a lost soul? So do you care that the Kingdom of God is lost?

So are you among those to whom Jms 4:4 and 1 Jn 2:15 and 2 Cor 4:4 applies? The god of this world blinds their eyes to their own emotionalized idols by an incantation within their souls. So Yahshua says in Rev 3:20 that He stands at the door of their souls, being outside knocking for entry again, because they put an idol in His place, and He and any idol cannot coexist in the same part of us.

Man is made of spirit, soul, and body, and the soul is the center of the emotions, will, and intellect of a man. So it must be that your will allowed this idol to take over within your soul to enjoy emotionally its presence.

Since our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19), and since He will never leave us, He must recede to our spirit and stay there, even if we sin as 1 Jn 5:16-18 (NKJ) and are touched by Satan, meaning that he is attached to our soul where once the Holy Spirit dwelled. But now He dwells only in our spirit, outside our soul, as Rev 3:20 speaks of — to the whole community, which became that way by a leader's influence who was under the touch of Satan.

1 Cor 6:9 — Idolaters are listed with all the others.

1 Cor 6:20 — So what price will you pay to be the temple of the Holy Spirit, to have His Spirit in your soul? (1 Jn 1:6-7)

Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and unless He is in your soul, He can't communicate through your physical aspects, such as your brain and speech. 1 Pet 4:3-4; Jn 7:18 — The potential is great to lead the whole community astray to the condition of Rev 3:20, over a period of time (3 Jn 1:9).

Our bodies belong to Messiah, and idolatry demeans the price He paid to redeem us, and diminishes the glory we are to bring to Him who loved us so much. So if He is not in our souls, we cannot love as He loved (Jn 13:34; 1 Jn 3:16), and Jn 13:35 will never be real, and the world will know it, as it has known down through the centuries that Jn 17:23 is not a reality.

So if what Paul said in 1 Cor 6:17 is true, then only in our soul can we enjoy fellowship with Him. For only by our soul do we know this communion with Him, and only by the soul, where the Spirit can speak to us, can we know 1 Jn 3:14, as verse 24 says — by the Spirit whom He has given us to dwell in our bodies. We are spirit, soul, and body, but only if He is in our soul can we know this. Unless He is there, this love is not real.

Only if He is in our soul can this love be confirmed by Him to us, and all things are confirmed by our soul, the center of our emotions, our will, and our intellect. Nowhere else except in our soul can He speak and love through us, and only there, by

our soul's witness, can we know anything of value. Otherwise He remains in our spirit and is silent. The only thing we hear is His persistent knocking, waiting for us to open up to Him and hear His voice (Jn 10:14,27-30; 18:37).

Eph 5:8,11-14,17,21 — So wake up, O sleeper, and Messiah will shine on you. We are like the dead without the Spirit in our soul. Only in your soul can He shine on you, and that means He must be there, and He can't be there unless you let Him be there. Since He bought you, He owns you; you are His property, His possession. He wants to take the land. He is grieved just abiding in your spirit. He wants to have fellowship with you, and only there, in your soul, can he have that.

So do you know you are not your own? You belong to Him. He only shines from the soul of man — shines on others who need that light. We can only be the light of the world if He is there where He shines out and draws all men to Himself.

1 Cor 11:26-32 — Read it to your own destruction if you do not understand (Dan 12:10).