

BREAKING DOWN IDOLATRY

²⁴ It began with Demetrius, a silversmith who had a large business manufacturing silver shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. He kept many craftsmen busy. ²⁵ He called them together, along with others employed in similar trades, and addressed them as follows: “Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from this business. ²⁶ But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren’t really gods at all. And he’s done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! ²⁷ Of course, I’m not just talking about the loss of public respect for our business. I’m also concerned that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and that Artemis— this magnificent goddess worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world—will be robbed of her great prestige!” ²⁸ At this their anger boiled, and they began shouting, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹ Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.

ACTS 19:24–29 NLT

Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your

1 JOHN 5:21 NLT

Only Jesus gives me freedom, therefore:

1. I repent of my idolatry

¹⁸ Many who became believers confessed their sinful practices. ¹⁹ A number of them who had been practicing sorcery brought their incantation books and burned them at a public bonfire. The value of the books was several million dollars. ²⁰ So the message about the Lord spread widely and had a powerful effect.

ACTS 19:18–20 NLT

Only Jesus gives me freedom, therefore:

2. I exchange devotion to an idol for surrender to God

Soon the whole city was filled with confusion. Everyone rushed to the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, who were Paul’s traveling companions from Macedonia.

ACTS 19:29 NLT

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.

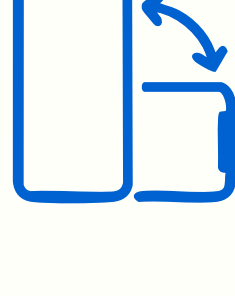
COLOSSIANS 3:5–7, 10 NLT

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.

MATTHEW 22:37 NLT

But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope.

JEREMIAH 17:7 NLT



ROTATE YOUR PHONE

DEEP IDOL	FALSE PROMISE	TELLTALE EMOTION	REPLACEMENT SCRIPTURE	CORE TRUTH
Control	If I control everything, things will turn out well.	Extreme anxiety Anger	Is. 46:10; Ps. 46:1-3; Rom. 8:28	God is sovereign; I do not need to control everything in order to feel secure.
Perfectionism	If I do everything right, everything will be fine.	Intolerance	Gal. 1:10; Ro. 8:31-34; John. 15:15	I am accepted in the Beloved; human opinion does not define my worth.
Approval	If others accept me, I have worth.	Shame Dissatisfaction	Phil. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Heb. 13:5	Christ is sufficient; His grace is made perfect in my weakness.
Comfort	If I am comfortable, I am safe.	Irritability Spiritual apathy		
Loneliness	If I am alone, everything will be fine.	Disconnection Sadness		

Inside, the people were all shouting, some one thing and some another. Everything was in confusion. In fact, most of them didn’t even know why they were there.

ACTS 19:32 NLT

Only Jesus gives me freedom, therefore:

3. I equip myself spiritually to remain free

¹⁰ A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. ¹⁷ Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

EPHESIANS 6:10–18 NLT