

IDOLATRY

Part 2

The Attitude of Idolatry

1st Co. 10:1-21

INTRODUCTION

The attitude of idolatry is clearly seen in the worship and service given to idols. Worship and service of idols prove that the idol has been placed in a place that only God belongs. The nation Israel was warned about their attitude to the idols of the Gentiles. Moses wrote that they were to “**not bow down to their gods, nor to serve them, nor do after their works.**” (Ex. 23:13) Israel was warned that they should “**worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve.**” There was a big emphasis placed not only on not worshipping other gods, but also not serving them. Worship and serve are two words fundamental to idolatry. Worship and serve reveals the attitude of an idolater. Today, we will consider the worship and service of idols.

I. WORSHIP OF PEOPLE PLACE OR THINGS PLACE THEM IN A PLACE WHERE ONLY GOD BELONGS WHICH IS IDOLATRY.

A. Worship is used several ways in Scripture.

1. It is used of bowing down to a deity or person.
 - a) The Hebrew word for worship is shachak which means “**bow down to; to prostrate oneself.**” -- Brown, Driver and Briggs cf. Gen. 19:1 (of Lot bowing down before the angels that came to Sodom); Gen. 43:26 (of Joseph’s brothers)
 - b) The Greek word used is proskuneo which is used early in the New Testament for **doing obeisance to a superior**. Heb. 1:6 (of angels worshipping the Lord); Matt. 4:9 (of Satan demanding the Lord do); John 4:20 (worship in Judism was to bow in order to kiss the feet of the one receiving the worship)
2. Worship is used in Scripture to note the showing of reverence.
 - a) Eusebeo is a word that is generally used of worship in which the worshipper acts in a way that shows reverence and respect towards a deity. Acts 18:13 (the apostle Paul was accused of persuading men to worship contrary to)
 - b) A change in worship occurred in the Dispensation of Grace from **kissing the feet of (proskuneo); to saying back to God that which**

He has said about Himself (proskemai); it can often take place in the realm of the spirit where the believer has been born again.
John 4:20-21 ; Acts 8:27 (of the Ethiopian eunuch)

- c) Latreo -- ***to render religious homage; to do priestly service; involves the offering of sacrifices.*** cf. Acts 24:14 (Paul describe as the type he went to Jerusalem for)

B. The word commonly used for worship of idols in the Old Testament was shachak.

1. Israel warned about corrupting themselves and worshipping gods in the land. Deut. 4:15-19; 8:19; Zeph. 1:5
2. God promises judgment for those who worship the host of heaven. Zep. 1:5

C. Idol worship in the New Testament is inclusive of proskuneo.

1. There is worship of the beast. Rev. 13:8-12; 14:9
2. There is worship of the image of the beast.
3. There is worship of “devils”. Rom. 9:20 cf. 18:2

II. THE COMPANION OF THE WORSHIP OF IDOLS IS THE SERVICE DONE FOR THE APPEASEMENT OF IDOLS.

A. Serving idols is distinct from “worshipping” idols.

1. The focus of worship acknowledgement.
2. The focus of “serving” is appeasement. Cf. Acts 7:42
3. “Serve” is used with “worship” several times in Scripture. Cf. Deur. 4:19; 8:19; 11:16; 30:17; 2 Chron. 7:19; Jos. 23:7; Judges 2:19; 2 Chron. 33:3; Jer. 13:10

B. The prominent word used for “serve” in the Hebrew is “abad” which is used in Scripture of ***doing menial work to promote the business of the idol/deity.*** Cf. Det. 7:16; 28:14; 1st Sam. 12:10 (forsook the Lord)

1. It is inclusive of emotion. 28:47 (of serving the true God)
2. It is inclusive of offering sacrifices and burnt offerings. 2 Kings. 22-24
3. It includes constructing images to the god. 2 Kings 17:16

C. Two prominent Greek words are used pertaining to serving

1. The Greek word for “serve” is douleo -- “to serve as a slave, to be in bondage to.” -- Lk. 16:13 (of serving money)

2. Another word, latreo is used of *doing priestly service*. Cf. Matt. 4:10 cf. Deut. 6:13

CONCLUSION

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The Result of Idolatry

1st Co. 10:1-21

- I. THE SIN NATURE CAN CAUSE ONES TO TURN TO IDOLATRY.
- II. THE SIN NATURE CAN CAUSE ONES TO “WORSHIP” IDOLS.
- III. THE WALK OF THE IDOLATER IS AFFECTED.,
- IV. The heart is turned away. Deut. 30:17