

JESUS > IDOLS

A History Of God From 1500 BC - Today:

God is:

- **Useful.**
- Like other **gods**.
- Yielding to **culture**.
- **Not who** we thought he would be.

The Danger Of A Wrong God:

The wrong view of God leads to **deception**.

Deception builds **idols**.

Do Not Be Deceived:

Bad **company** corrupts good **character**.

God cannot be **mocked**.

Righteousness is the key to heaven.

How Do We Start Over? An Anti-Deception Checklist:

- ✓ Where is that found in **Scripture**?
- ✓ Is that teaching **natural** and **appealing**?
- ✓ Do I have **blind spots**?
- ✓ Am I surrounding myself with other **followers** of **Jesus**?

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Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 28, 2018

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. In the sermon we heard about the need to encourage one another daily. Can you think of a time in your life when someone provided some biblical encouragement that helped you avoid making a bad decision or choosing to sin? What did they do or say that caused you to listen to their input?

2. This weekend we looked at how the wrong view of God leads to deception which can then create idols. An idol can be something that is clearly wrong or it can be a good thing that we've made more important than God. Can you think of one or two good things that could become an idol to you if you're not careful?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Throughout history every human has struggled with sin's ability to deceive us starting with Adam and Eve. One example of this is a soldier by the name of Achan who disobeyed God by taking some plunder after Israel conquered Jericho. His disobedience resulted in a catastrophic defeat for the Israelites. He explains why he did this in Joshua 7:20-21. What similarities and differences do you see in Achan's decision to sin compared to the process of sin described in James 1:13-15?

Joshua 7:20-21 *New International Version (NIV)*

Achan replied, "It is true! I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I have done: 21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia,[a] two hundred shekels[b] of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels,[c] I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

James 1:13-15 *New International Version (NIV)*

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Looking at each of the steps into sin from these passages, can you think of anything a person could do at each stage to prevent the process from moving to the next stage?

2. Christopher talked about the need to develop the kind of relationships where we are able to encourage one another daily. This kind of relationship can't happen in a large group of casual acquaintances and strangers. It takes a smaller group of people (like a Growth Group) who are committed to one another. Looking at the attitudes and actions in Philippians 2:1-4, how could each one serve to help create a community where we can be genuinely known, lovingly supported and honestly challenged?

Philippians 2:1-4 *New International Version (NIV)*

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Which attitude or action found in this passage do you think is most important for creating an encouraging community?

Which attitude or action found in this passage is hardest for you to maintain or put into practice?

3. Christopher shared an anti-deception checklist at the end of his sermon. How do the following passages support or expand on the four items on that checklist?

Psalms 1:1-3 *New International Version (NIV)*

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Psalms 19:12-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.
¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;

may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.
¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Proverbs 12:15 *New International Version (NIV)*

The way of fools seems right to them,
but the wise listen to advice.

John 16:12-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

Even though the resources mentioned in these passages are always available to everyone, why do you think so many people forget or ignore them when it comes to resisting deception?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any deceptions that you're struggling with right now for which you'd like prayer?

2. Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

Here are some online resources to help you understand the Bible better and to find answers about the Bible:

- Got Questions - Gotquestions.org
- Blue Letter Bible - Blueletterbible.com
- Stand to Reason - str.org
- Bible Study Tools - biblestudytools.com
- Enduring Word - enduringword.com

Praise/Prayer Requests:

