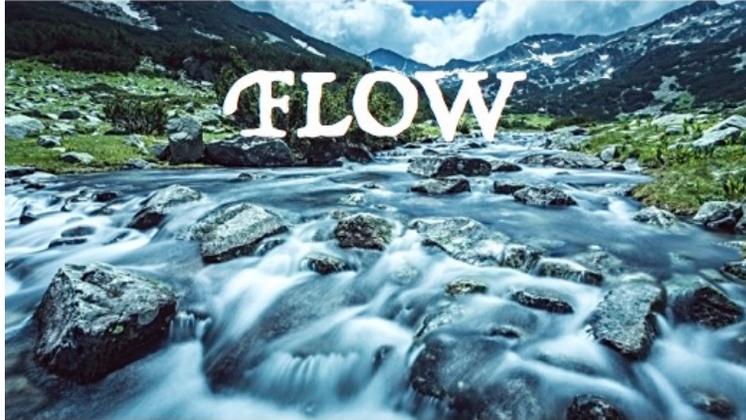


#9 March 13, 2017



*You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in
heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You
shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God,
am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to
the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing
love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my
commandments.*

Exodus 20:3-6

The Second Commandment

What is idolatrous worship?

by Kylie Thalhofer

Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPil9Br-5IE>

I don't mean to throw football fans under the bus, but this video really helps pinpoint one facet of today's American culture that has become idolatrous worship. When we invest in the things of this world, areas of enjoyment in our lives can easily turn into idols. When we come to the point of sacrificing time and resources with no thought about glorifying God, we're worshipping our desires rather than God. Whether we're worshipping our families and friends, our work and money, our vacations, or our hobbies, we all fall short in this way.

Does this mean we have to cut out the things in our lives that we enjoy? I don't think so. Instead, with God's Spirit, we can reorient our investment in those areas to bring glory to God. Let's return to the football analogy from the video; time and resources can be used to bring others closer to God, without turning football-fandom into an idol. One example is to use football as a way to relate to others. Inviting nonbelievers and believers to enjoy the game together builds community and invites deeper conversations through genuine friendship.

Pray:

Ask God to open your eyes to your idols. Ask Him for courage to be honest about your idols, and for strength to turn away from idolatrous worship. Thank Him for His Spirit, which empowers us to glorify Him in everything we do.

Questions:

What is one area of your life that is, or could easily become, idolatrous worship?

Think about the investment of your time and resources, and be honest with yourself about who you're glorifying in those areas.

How can you use that area of your life to glorify God instead?

Think of ways to use your time and resources to help both you and others grow closer to God in that area of life.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2

Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.

Romans 8:8-9a