

## KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS

### I. THE TRUTH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD – 1 John 5:20a

This truth about Jesus Christ being God, about the deity of Jesus is a most essential element of the Christian faith. 1 John 3:22, 5:5; 2 Peter 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17

### II. JESUS CHRIST HAS GIVEN US UNDERSTANDING – 1 John 5:20b

A. Understanding means mentally knowing God's truth in your mind, and then spiritually being affected by this truth in your heart and soul. Ephesians 1:18, 4:18

B. God is in charge of who understands the truth. Salvation is by the will of God and not the will of man. This understanding is freely given to us. Matthew 11:25-27; Ephesians 2:1, 8-9; Acts 16:14; John 1:12-13, 3:5

C. This understanding is given so we can have eternal life, so we can be saved, so we can be forgiven, and so we can know Christ. This relationship is an eternal relationship, your most important relationship, and a needed relationship. Philippians 1:21

### III. JESUS CHRIST IS TRUE – 1 John 5:20c

A. Contrasting the truth of Christ with the error of the devil. Three things are stated here – we have understanding about Christ who is true; we know Christ, this One who is true; and we are in Christ who is true. John 8:31-32, 14:6

B. To be in Christ is a very important and vital truth. It means you are in Christ spiritually speaking. It means you are protected. It means you have this intimate relationship with Christ. It means you are saved forever and secure forever. Ephesians 1:1, 1:3, 1:7, 1:13; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2

### IV. JESUS CHRIST KEEPS YOU SAFE, SECURE AND PROTECTED

A. You are kept safe because it is God's purpose. Ephesians 1:4

B. You are kept safe by the fact that you were purchased through Christ's death. Col. 1:14

C. You are kept safe by the fact that God Himself protects you. 2 Timothy 4:18

D. You are kept safe by the fact that God has the power to protect you. Jude 24-25

E. You are kept safe by the prayers of Jesus Christ. Romans 8:34

F. You are kept safe by the sealing work of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:14

### V. JESUS CHRIST IS THE TRUE GOD AND THE ETERNAL LIFE - 1 John 1:1-4

## VI. THE CONCLUSION OF 1 JOHN – INSTRUCTING THE BELIEVERS TO NOT BE LOVING IDOLS, SO THAT THEY THEN WILL BE LOVING GOD - 1 John 5:21

A. The word idol comes from a Greek word meaning likeness, appearance, and that which is visible and seen to be representing God. Deuteronomy 5:7-8, Romans 1:22-23. Colossians 3:6 – idolatry is a major overall sin, and other sins come from this sin.

B. The general nature of idols, of gods. They can be anything that takes the place of God, or anything you love more than God, that has a place in your heart, that is reserved only for God. It can be anything or anyone you love or trust instead of God.

C. Examples of idols – jewelry, trinkets, furniture, house, yard, money, bank accounts, friends, spouse, children, actors, singers, sports stars, politicians, television, movies, music, games, food, alcohol, drugs, sex, etc. It can be anything that you love, worship, or idolize.

## VII. GUARDING YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS

A. You are to guard yourself from idols. This is your job - to guard your mind and heart, to make sure that idols stay out of your mind and out of your life. Proverbs 4:23

B. How can you guard yourself?

1. Realize how worthless these idols are.
2. Be actively loving, thanking and worshipping the one true God.
3. Be obeying God, be doing what He wants you to do. Idle people have idols.
4. Pray and ask God to give you the grace to turn away from these idols.
5. Be diligent at guarding your heart every day.
6. Get promises from God to give you the grace to turn from idols. Jude 21

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART,  
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND,  
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. Mark 12:30

### SOME QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

1. What is the main thing you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why is the truth about the deity of Jesus, that He is the Son of God, so important?
3. What does it mean to have spiritual understanding? How do you get this?
4. What does it mean to say Jesus Christ is true? Why is this important to know this?
5. Do you believe and feel like you are spiritually safe? How are you kept safe?
6. Are there any idols that are particularly problematic in your life?
7. How can you guard yourself from idols? How are you doing at guarding yourself from idols?