

Mental Assent to Demonism: Idolatry: Mental & Overt: 4-Generation Curse, Ex 20: 3-6, Phallic 1 Cor 10:6-8; Jer 17:1-3, Sins of Parents Engraved in Children's Souls

The divine prohibition against idolatry comes in the first two paragraphs of the Decalogue, or the first two of the Ten Commandments:

Exodus 20:3 - "There shall not be to you any other gods beyond Me."

NOTE: This is a negative mandate which prohibits mental idolatry. Once you begin placing anything ahead of God, His Word, and His plan, then you are entering into the suburbs of mental idolatry. Unchecked you will eventually rationalize your defection as being justified. Sooner or later the vacuum in the soul will suck in the concept of a false god. For example, radical environmentalists are a modern version of dirt worshipers. They personify the planet by referring to it as Mother Earth from whom we derive all our provisions. This is equivalent to worshipping a refrigerator as the source of all food. Somebody put the food into the refrigerator and Somebody put our provisions into the planet. To think otherwise will eventually cause a person to move into raw Pantheism, the worship of the earth, and the things on it and in it. To place anything above God is to reject His perfect love and justice. This constitutes spiritual idolatry which is characterized in Scripture as spiritual adultery. What comes next is the construction of idols. This necessitates the issuing of the Second Commandment found in:

Exodus 20:4 - "You shall not make [עָשָׂה *asah*: to create something according to a pattern; emphasizes the process of construction and thus becomes a challenge to the volition] for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

Exodus 20:5 - "You shall not bow down to them [שָׁחָה *shachah*: to pay homage to a superior] or worship them [עָבַד *'avath*: to serve; two more volitional challenges]; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God [אֲנִי *qanna*': also translated "zeal" or "zealous." "The word describes a passionate intensity to protect or defend something that is jeopardized. God's zeal is to protect his people or his institutions or his honor. (*NET Bible*, Ex. 20:5, study note 12, 196)], punishing [פָּקַד *paqath*: "Those who hate God and do not keep His commandments will repeat the sins their fathers committed and suffer for them; the patterns of sin are repeated from generation to generation." (*ibid.*, translators note 13)] the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me,

v. 6 - but showing unfailing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

The horror of idolatry is that it sends out signals to the demonic forces that you are susceptible to cosmic evangelism and are giving mental assent to demonism. Unchecked, idolatry will eventually lead to extreme perversions.

- 5) Phallic reversionism: A cult practiced by the Canaanites and adopted by reversionistic Jews. A brief description of its rituals is provided by:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Reversionism*. 2d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1978), 93 (See 3d ed., 2000, 105):

Phallic reversionism is found throughout the Bible but its practice first flourished as a religion with the idolatrous Canaanites before the Israelites occupied the Land. While the Jews conquered the Canaanites on the battlefield, the Canaanites conquered the Jews through the apostasy of the phallic cult!

This cult was practiced in groves of trees along with the worship of a nude female idol, variously called Ashtoreth, Astarte, Ishtar, Venus or Aphrodite. Inspired by demonism, which is always found where idolatry exists (Lev. 20:6), the worship included frenzied group sex (Lev. 20:1-5), autoerotism, bestiality, incest and human sacrifice (Deut. 12:29-31).

1 Corinthians 10:6 - Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

v. 7 - And so not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, [**Exodus 32:6**] “The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play.”

v. 8 - Nor let us act immorally as some of them did, and 23,000 fell in one day [**Numbers 25:1-9**].

Religion is designed to counterfeit the divine good produced by the believer in Jesus Christ. However, the “good” of religion is a veil of activity which promotes the plan of Satan.

Truths are distorted and, over time, that which is good becomes evil and visa versa. In this regard, the Canaanites developed a religion which incorporated sexual perversion as an integral part of worship. Baal became the central deity who came into fatal conflict with Mot, the god of death. Baal was later restored to life, a demonic counterfeit of the resurrection of Christ.

Baal had a wife named Anath who was also his sister. This incestuous relationship was the motivation for those who followed Baal to become involved in perverted sexual activities in their worship of him.

Consequently, this cult developed a motivation for every lust pattern of the sinful nature. There were no restraints placed on the people in their evil expressions of worship for this idol. Jeremiah attacked this degeneracy when he warned the people of Judah in:

Jeremiah 17:1 - Judah’s sin is engraved with an iron tool, inscribed with a diamond-tipped stylus on the norms and standards of the soul [**mental idolatry**] and on the horns of their altars [**overt idolatry**].

v. 2 - Their children remember [זָכַר *zachar*: to think about; to recall: they remember what they have observed & repeat it] their altars and Asherah poles beside the spreading trees and on the high hills,

v. 3 - and on the mountains and in the fields. I will give your wealth and all your treasures away as plunder. I will give it away as the price for the sins you have committed throughout your land.

Chilling commentary on this passage is offered by:

Feinberg, Charles L. *Jeremiah: A Commentary*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982), 127:

Jeremiah 17:1. When Jeremiah says that Judah's sin is "engraved" on the people's hearts and on their altars with "an iron tool," he means that their sin is "indelible." Thus God's judgment is inescapable. Sin, especially idolatry, had become an integral part of Judah's life. It had been etched on their very natures and on their temple worship (cf. Exod. 27:1). (The reference to "the horns of their altars" may be to the altars of Baal.) Iron tools were used in cutting inscriptions on stone (cf. Job 19:24). Ancient inscriptions almost defy the ravages of time, as the Hammurabi Stela, Moabite Stone, or the Behistun 'bā-his-tūn' Inscription. The "horns of the altars" were the metal projections from the four corners. In the temple rituals sacrificial blood was sprinkled for expiation on the four horns of the altar (Lev. 16:18). What a perversion to have sin ineradicably engraved on the heart where the new covenant belongs (Jer. 31:31-34) and on the very places where solemn expiation was made for the sins of the people!

Verse 2. The children in Judah will be so steeped in idolatry by their parents that the desire for it will emerge at the slightest provocation. Thus long continuance in idolatry is implied. For such iniquities the nation will lose all its wealth to its enemies (v. 3).