## Common 'Idols'

**Performance** – especially **for significant others** – man pleases to get or to keep acceptance or approval. Example: for parents or spouse. When you please man rather than God, this is idolatry. If that is the case, then you are worshipping that person more than God. Fearful of what others think rather than obeying God – this is a problem.

Example: “I can’t do what God wants because of what this person might say.”

**Performance for Self** (Perfectionism) – trying to perform up to our own standards that we have set. Can become a Pharisee. You bow down to self. When I meet the standard, I feel good; when I don’t I feel bad. Wrong!

Example: Making a list for myself to follow that is higher than what God says.

**Performance of Others** – I make a list of what others should do.

Example: For my spouse to be a good husband / wife he / she must do… (1,2,3, etc.). If he/she doesn’t do these things, I become judgmental and unloving.

### Good Health – My goal shouldn’t be this, but to glorify God. Be careful when praying for those who are sick. It’s OK to pray for them, but don’t let it become an idol. God may want you or them sick in order to glorify Himself (see John 9).

### Love of Money – I take a promotion just to get more money

### Success – What’s a good day to you? Answering this question helps to reveal idols of the heart. What made it a good day in your mind? Usually it’s “I got a lot accomplished / done.” Or “I pleased significant others. “ Or “I got my way… Others did for me what I want them to do.” Etc.

### Fairness - Life has to be fair! (Psalm 73) “I’ve been trying to please God; these others aren’t even trying and they prosper.” This can cause you to almost forsake the faith (Psa. 73:2).

### Hurt-Free / Pain-Free Life – I don’t want to deal with problems. There shouldn’t be any difficulties. I shouldn’t have to go through anything unsettling… because I want peace.

### Christian Marriage and Home – I’ll be successful if my children turn out right. That can become an idol. Or I want people to look at our marriage and think we have the best marriage in the world.

Physical Appearance

Being respected / Admired

Being self-sufficient / Independent

A Material Thing

Athletic Abilities / Achievements

Hobbies ~ sports, reading, whatever

An Ideal ("Pro-life movement, "Peace Movement")

Being Treated Fairly

Success / Position / Power

Worldly Pleasures(drugs, alcohol, food, sex,etc)

Being in Control

Meeting Goals / Achievements

A Child or Children

Having Your 'Needs' Met

Another Person (man or woman)