

*1 John 5:18-21,
Matthew 22:36-40*

KINGDOM COME: The Sin Beneath the Sin

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Kingdom Come: The Sin Beneath the Sin

“An idol is anything in our lives that occupies the place that should be occupied by God alone. Anything that...is central in my life, anything that seems to me...essential...An idol is anything by which I live and on which I depend, anything that...holds such a controlling position in my life that...it moves and rouses and attracts so much of my time and attention, my energy and money.” —D.M. Lloyd-Jones, “Idolatry” in *Life in God: Studies in 1 John*

Read Romans 1:18-25, 1 John 5:18-21, Galatians 4:8-9

1. What is my greatest nightmare? What do I worry about the most?
2. What do I rely on or comfort myself when things go badly or become difficult?
3. What makes me feel the most self-worth? What am I the proudest of?

4. What do I really want and expect out of life? What would really make me happy?

Read through the additional page and circle the thoughts that most resonate with you.

Check the thoughts that are lodged in your heart:

- Power Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I have power and influence over others.
- Approval Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am loved and respected by _____.
- Comfort Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.”
- Image Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I have a particular kind of look or body image.”
- Control Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____.
- Helping Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...people are dependant on me and need me.”
- Dependence Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.”
- Independence Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.”
- Work Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am highly productive, getting a lot done.”
- Achievement Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am being recognized for my accomplishments, if I am excelling in my career.”
- Materialism Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.
- Religion Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am adhering to my religious moral codes and accomplished in it activities.”

- ❑ **Individual Person Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...this one person is in my life and happy there and/or happy with me.”
- ❑ **Irreligion idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and with a self-made morality.”
- ❑ **Racial/cultural idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...my race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.”
- ❑ **Inner Ring Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...a particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me *in*.”
- ❑ **Family Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...my children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.”
- ❑ **Relationship Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...Mr. or Mrs. ‘Right’ is in love with me.”
- ❑ **Suffering Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...I am hurting, in a problem—only then do I feel noble or worthy of love or am able to deal with guilt.”
- ❑ **Ideology Idolatry:** “Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...my political or social cause or party is making progress and ascending in influence or power.”



Look at the answers you gave. Pray that you would be able to repent of your idols and rejoice in the saving love of Jesus, that you would look only to Christ as your salvation and identity, and you would be able to break the power idols hold over you.