

Counterfeit Gods Introduction

1. Explain the difference between sorrow and despair and what causes this “strange melancholy” in our society. (x–xi)
2. The Bible calls the human heart an “idol factory” please explain what this means. (xiv)
3. In your own words, what are idols and counterfeit gods?

Counterfeit Gods Chapter 1

1. What were the fundamental questions God was asking Abraham when He commanded the sacrifice of Isaac? (pg 6)
2. Have you ever been asked to lay down something that was extremely important to you? Did you have to ask yourself “How can God be both holy and just and still graciously fulfill His promise of salvation?”
3. When God calls us to sacrifice our “Isaacs” we can respond in one of two ways. Explain what these are and talk about which one is your typical response and why. (pg 19)

Counterfeit Gods Chapter 2

1. How do you know when a good thing has become an idol? (pg 23–24)
2. Explain “apocalyptic romance” and why it is so prevalent today. (pg 27–28)
3. What are some of the consequences of Love/sex as an idol, both to yourself and to the one you affix your affections? (pg 38–39 as well as the story of Leah pg 35)
4. How do we break the cycle of love/sex addiction and idolatry in ourselves? (pg 42–44)

Counterfeit Gods Chapter 4

1. Why does the idol of success make you supreme? (pg 75)
2. How are culture and families creating a generation of success idolaters? (pg 79)
3. Timothy Keller states that traditional religions expect that gods will be working through the successful, not the outsider and the failures. They also believe that the gods of religion can be controlled by our hard work and devotion. Explain how our faith is different and how our God is a "wild God." (pg 84-88)
4. How is salvation the end of idolatry? (pg 94-96)

Counterfeit Gods Chapter 5

1. What are the signs of political idolatry and do you suffer from any of these? (pg 98-100)
2. What is an ideologue? What are the consequences of being an ideologue? What causes a culture to spawn ideologues? (pg 104-107)
3. What is the craving of power born from and how do we ultimately destroy it? (pg 109-110)

Counterfeit Gods Chapter Six

1. What are the idols of our culture and society that influence you the most?
 - a. Profit
 - b. Culture
 - c. Religion
 - d. Patriotism
 - e. Race

2. What are some of the implications this chapter should have on your world view and your evangelistic views? (pg 138–145)

3. How does idolatry twist our view of God's grace and love? (pg 146)

4. What is irremediable guilt and do you suffer from it? (pg 149)

Counterfeit Gods

Chapter 7

1. What is a spiritual insurance policy and are you guilty of purchasing one? How can you cancel it? (pg 156)
2. Explain the weakness of God. (pg 162-164)
3. According to David Clarkson nothing is more common than idolatry. If our soul is a house, idols are probably set up in each and every room. Have you come to notice any idols in your house?

Counterfeit Gods Epilogue

1. Why is idolatry not only one sin among many, but what is fundamentally wrong with the human heart? (pg 165–166)
2. If our patterns of spending reveal our idols, review your daily spending, make a list of your top idols, and begin replacing them. If you feel comfortable, please share a few of your top idols.
3. Explain the relationship of rejoicing and repenting. (pg 172–173)
4. Are you on the road to freedom from counterfeit gods? Can you explain the route you will take?