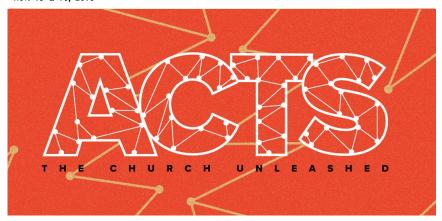
Nov. 15 & 18, 2018



Provoking the gods

Acts 17:16-17 (ESV)

Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.

Acts 17:22-25 (ESV)

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:29-34 (ESV)

Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." ³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NIV)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

 Idolatry is always, first and foremost, an inner, spiritual sin of the heart that involves selfishly lusting after things of the world instead of supremely loving God.

The Four Root Idols:

- I. Power
- II. Control
- III. Comfort
- IV. Approval

I. The Power Idol (John 3:30)

"I have worth and value only when I have influence, recognition, and fame."

II. The Control Idol (Matthew 6:31-33)

"I'm only content if things are occurring according to my plans and desires."

III. The Comfort Idol (Psalms 16:11)

"I'm not content unless I experience a certain quality of life or a particular pleasure."

IV. The Approval Idol

"I'm not content or at peace unless I am loved or accepted by a particular person or group of people."

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