



LifeGroup Discussion Questions

The Soul of Darkness | May 28, 2023

Summary

The key to keeping our hearts at home in the Lord is to keep our desires ever-focused and satisfied with God and His love for us expressed in Jesus Christ and the abiding presence of His Holy Spirit!

Scripture

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

-Romans 1:18-25 (NLT)

Let's Start

Pastor Dale shared a favorite hymn at the beginning of the sermon. Do you have a favorite hymn? Which one and why is it meaningful?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. Pastor Dale quoted a line from the beloved hymn by Robert Robinson, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing":
*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love...*
Why do we tend to wander from the Lord, even though we love Him?
2. In Romans 1:18-20, Paul makes a bold statement. He says that "Through everything God made, [humanity] can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature." How and why do people suppress the truth about God?
3. When people deny God, what do they often put in His place?
4. The story of the Golden Calf in Exodus 32:1-8 demonstrates the Israelites' idolatry. Their idolatry can be compared to what is happening to our world:
 - **A distortion of reality:** They chose to worship a created image instead of the true and living God who had shown them His power and faithfulness in delivering them from Egypt.
 - **Spiritual blindness:** They refused to recognize the true nature of God in His covenant with them and in the many demonstrations of His faithfulness to them.
 - **Immoral behavior:** As they worshipped their man-made god, they gave into their most sensual and immoral desires.
 - **A false sense of dependence:** Instead of relying on God and His truth, they became dependent on a piece of metal.
 - **An emotional attachment:** Their affection became attached to their creation.

How have you seen these characteristics in our world recently?

5. Pastor Dale shared some keys to recognizing idols in your life from Pastor Steve Fuller. Something is an idol when...
 1. It causes me to disobey God.
 2. It gives me greater joy than Christ.
 3. It gives me the most excitement about the future.
 4. It is what I daydream about the most.
 5. It is what I most enjoy talking about.
 6. It is what I fear losing the most.
 7. It is what I most enjoy reading about.
 8. It is what I most love spending money on.
 9. It is what I look to for heart rejuvenation.
 10. It is what I most enjoy spending time on.

Which signs on this list were convicting to you?

6. In what ways can you lessen your dependence on the things you are tempted to “worship” and serve more than God?

Let’s Act

Pastor Dale gave some practical ways to cultivate a spirit of thankfulness in your heart toward God to try these this week.

1. Begin shifting your focus away from yourself to God by recognizing His goodness and provision in your life and the world around you.
2. Cultivate contentment by focusing on what you have rather than what you lack.
3. Recognize and be thankful to the Giver while realizing you don’t deserve the gifts.
4. Live generously enough to keep yourself reliant on God and not His provisions.
5. Regularly engage in private and public worship, praise and thanksgiving towards God.
