

love, sex, romance & family

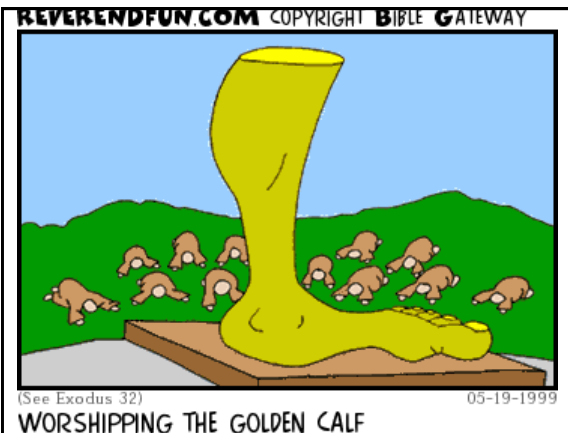
gods at war 2

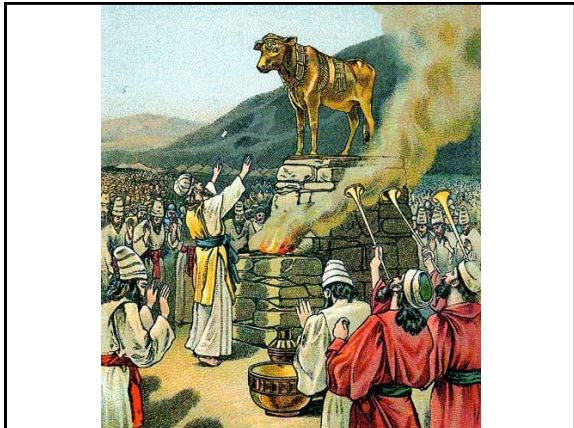
defeating the idols that battle for our hearts.

jan-george blignaut

previous episode:

- 1. what's the issue
 - a. idolatry





previous episode:

1. what's the issue
 - a. idolatry
 - b. idol makeover
 - c. what lies beneath

2. battleground
 - a. the source
 - b. walking upstream

3. a jealous God

previous episode:

3: a jealous God

²“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God

previous episode:

3: a jealous God

¹⁴ Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

Exodus 34:14

previous episode:

3: a jealous God

² I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil... ³ and have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. ⁴ Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.

Revelation 2:2-5

“Whatever you idolize, you will eventually destroy it and it will destroy you”

Tim Keller

“Idols are defeated not by being removed but by being replaced.”

Kyle Idleman

**previous episode:
4: the temple of pleasure**

"There have always been games, stories, jokes, and songs, but today pleasure is something close to the whole theme of daily living. We even expect our daily work to be pleasurable, much more than our ancestors did. In a society based on agriculture, nobody said, "Know what? Plowing and tending cattle aren't enough fun for me.

But these days if it isn't fun, if it isn't pleasurable, we don't want to do it."

**previous episode:
4: the temple of pleasure**

"When we experience pleasure, there's a part of us that thinks, Yes! This is what I was made for. Even if you haven't experienced much pleasure in your life, you've experienced enough to know that you want more. Thus begins the quest for the elusive narcotic of pleasure.

And so the gods of pleasure whisper, "Wouldn't you like to scratch that itch? Wouldn't you like to satisfy that appetite? Wouldn't you like to experience that feeling? Wouldn't you like to get that high? I have what you are looking for right here. And so we walk into the temple of pleasure"

previous episode:

- 4. temple of pleasure
 - a. the god of food
 - b. the god of entertainment

next episode:

- c. the god of sex

4: the temple of pleasure

c: the god of sex

Sex is good. Sex was God's idea.

"It brings pleasure and intimacy, and of course it produces children, in accordance with God's plan..."

Just as we've seen with food, God designed sex in such a way that it doesn't just accomplish a purpose; it also brings pleasure. He is a father who likes to give his children good things. All his gifts point us back to him. Or at least that's how it should work.

4: the temple of pleasure

c: the god of sex

The gift should cause us to love and worship the giver more deeply. But all too easily God's gifts to us end up being his greatest competition."

Never allow the gift to become more important than the giver.

c: the god of sex

i. fairy tale gone wrong

"In the course of time, Amnon son of David fell in love with Tamar, the beautiful sister of Absalom son of David. ²Amnon became so obsessed with his sister Tamar that he made himself ill. She was a virgin, and it seemed impossible for him to do anything to her.

³ Now Amnon had an adviser named Jonadab son of Shimeah, David's brother. Jonadab was a very shrewd man. ⁴ He asked Amnon, "Why do you, the king's son, look so haggard morning after morning? Won't you tell me?" Amnon said to him, "I'm in love with Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."

2 Samuel 13:1-4

c: the god of sex
i. fairy tale gone wrong

¹⁴ But he refused to listen to her, and since he was stronger than she, he raped her.

¹⁵ Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her. Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"

2 Samuel 13:14-15

c: the god of sex
ii. the pleasure paradox

"When something good becomes a god, the pleasure it brings dies in the process. Pleasure has this unique trait: the more intensely you chase it, the less likely you are to catch it..."

...The god of sexual pleasure promises you incredible satisfaction. As you read magazines and surf websites, as you keep going a little farther with your boyfriend or girlfriend, you obsess over what it would be like to push the envelope, to go ahead and give in to your desires, to grab that moment of ecstasy.

c: the god of sex
ii. the pleasure paradox

But what happens? The god delivers the opposite of what is promised.

Instead of satisfaction, you experience emptiness and an almost immediate hunger for something more. Instead of closeness and intimacy, you experience a strange sense of something that feels like loneliness...

...you can't shake the impression that you've given away some part of yourself that you can't get back."

c: the god of sex
iii. counting the cost

Long-term effect of viewing pornography?

- Decreased satisfaction with one's sexual partner.
- A decrease in how much one values faithfulness.
- A major increase in the importance of sex without attachment.

What are you sacrificing on the altar for this god?

5: the temple of love
a: the god of romance

- music culture
- movies
- series

a: the god of romance
Limerence – the ultimate narcotic

Psychologist Dorothy Tennov – 1970's

It refers to the phenomenon of falling madly, passionately in love, including what happens chemically in the body. Have you ever been "lovesick"?...Limerence describes a powerful emotional attachment that comes over a person who is powerfully attracted to some other person.

a: the god of romance

Limerence – the ultimate narcotic

It's an overpowering infatuation that involves "intrusive thinking" (not being able to concentrate on any subject but the object of our love); "putting the other on a pedestal"; agonizing over whether the feelings are reciprocated; fear of rejection; and some physical effects such as heart palpitations, loss of appetite, and paralyzing shyness around the object of affection.

Dopamine, the body's pleasure chemical, surges during limerence, so that love has a kind of stimulant effect.

a: the god of romance

Limerence – the ultimate narcotic

Energy is increased; appetite decreased. It's a blissful feeling, but a two-edged sword; rejection can cause a dangerous crash. The increase in dopamine can bring about a decrease in serotonin, a chemical that helps us make wise decisions. This helps to explain why people who are "head over heels" will do crazy, spontaneous things they would never ordinarily do.

a: the god of romance

looking for love

The Bachelor BC / Boer soek 'n vrou BC

¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. ¹⁸ Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel".

¹⁹ Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me."

Genesis 29:16-34

a: the god of romance

looking for love

²⁰ So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her."...

²³ But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her...

²⁵ When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

Genesis 29:16-34

a: the god of romance

looking for love

²⁶ Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. ²⁷ Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."...

³⁰ Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

Genesis 29:16-34

a: the god of romance

looking for love

³¹ When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive,

Leah's sons:

- Reuben: "the LORD has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now" - v32
- Simeon: "Because the LORD heard that I am not loved, he gave me this son too" - v33
- Levi: "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons"- v34
- Judah: "This time I will praise the LORD" - v35

Genesis 29:16-34

5: the temple of love
b: the god of family

² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey... ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance...

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife...

Genesis 22:1-12

5: the temple of love
b: the god of family

⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Genesis 22:1-12

5: the temple of love
b: the god of family

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple..."

Luke 14:25-27

conclusion

- What to do:
 - > Repent
 - > Sacrifice / lay down that which withholds you from Him
 - > Return to your first love
