

I. Idolatry

In the context: Worship of statues, false gods, etc.

2 definitions:

1. Elevating anything other than God to a position of worship.

Deut. 4:15-19

Anything: Person, Object, Animal, Plant

Example of each:

Person—Hitler, Herod—“voice of God”

Object—Stone, statue, Hinduism—God is everything, Mountains. Nature worship

Animal—Hinduism—cattle

Plant—Tree

(Key Point)

2. Elevating anything to the position or status of God.

Acts 12:20-24

(Key point) God does not share His glory or position with anyone.

Jeremiah 10:10

How does idolatry affect you?

We might not have a statue in our home or be tempted to worship a tree or animal, but this is how I believe Christians commit idolatry today, specifically teens:

- Worship of possession. (What I have is more important than who I am.) Materialism, fashion, etc. Devote more time to
- Worship of position. (My status is more important than my worth.) American Idol, Nashville Star, America’s Next Top Model, America’s Got Talent all indicate that success is what makes you valuable.
- Worship of popularity. (My status is more important than my integrity.)
- Worship of people. (Celebrity worship, singers & groups, College & professional athletes, etc.) Baseball—spring training.

(Key Point) You can not earn anything or do anything to make God love you more or less!

II. Sorcery

In the context: In Paul's day magicians would use drugs to enhance communication with other spirits.
(Demonic)

Two definitions:

1. Pharmakeia—pharmacy—mood or mind altering drugs.

1-10 High school seniors use marijuana on a regular basis.

(Almost) 1-6 High school seniors have tried cocaine or crack.

500 teens a day begin using drugs.

Average age of at which children try alcohol or marijuana: 12

1-10 Students involved in Christian youth groups admitted to having used illicit drugs in the past 3 months.

Of all the students surveyed 50% said it would be pretty easy to get marijuana or cocaine.

(Cocaine, Marijuana, Heroin, and LSD.)

Reasons for drug use:

- A. Escape from reality.

Young man: "When I get high, it's like there's no school, no zits, and no worries. Its just me and no one bugging me. It's great."

- B. Escape from rejection.

Dr. Armand Nicholi: "[many] students now assume everyone takes drugs, and if don't take them you indeed are part of the minority."

Young man: "I never wanted to smoke even one joint, let alone get high everyday, but I was offered a joint at a party by a neat chick, and I couldn't refuse it. I've been smoking ever since."

Fact: The physical effects of drug use are staggering. Depression, Suicide, Addiction, Criminal Behavior, Leukemia, Heart Attack, Infertility, Tissue Damage, Malnutrition, and death are possible results from drug use.

Question: Why would you want to put something in your body that could potentially harm you or even worse kill you?

(Key Point) Drugs may offer temporary relief and escape, Christ offers permanent deliverance and fulfillment. Matt. 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

I Corinthians 6:12 “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”

I Peter 5:8 “self control”

Romans 13:1-5 “obey the law”

I Cor. 6:15-20.

“The young man or woman who is living by the Spirit will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”—
Josh McDowell

2. Flirtation with the demonic world.

Black magic, Satanism, voodoo, witchcraft, etc. All of these can be described as an occult movement.

Occult—inversion of the biblical understanding of God and man. The occult embraces evil, and reassigns it as good. Micah 3:2

Some trends you need to avoid :

- Gothic movement—stems from this type of mindset.

"A lot of people turn to the Gothic subculture after having a hard time in school, feeling alienated, and looking for a way to express themselves."

“Real light is darkness.”

- Wiccan movement—earth centered religion, witches.

"We should educate people that 'Witch' is not evil but ancient and positive. The first time I called myself a 'Witch' was the most magical moment of my life." Margot Adler.

- Experimentation—Ouija boards, tarot cards, palm readings, fortune tellers, horoscopes, etc.

"A lot of people turn to the Gothic subculture after having a hard time in school, feeling alienated, and looking for a way to express themselves."

(Key Point) A Christian has no business engaging in this type of activity, because the consequences can be long term.

Illustration: Ouija board experience.

