

Idol = An image worshiped as a god,
an object of passionate devotion

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“Idolatry is when we build
our identity on anything
other than God or derive
fulfillment from anything
other than God.”

—Soren Kierkegaard

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“The redemption of Christ is
comprehensive and complete.
The application is not limited in
part, but is extended to the
whole of my life and being. All
of life is to be redeemed and
lived for the glory of God.”

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¹⁵Look carefully then how you
walk, not as unwise but as wise,
¹⁶making the best use of the
time, because the days are evil.

—Ephesians 5:15-16 ESV

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⁵Bondservants, obey your
earthly masters with fear and
trembling, with a sincere heart,
as you would Christ, ⁶not by
the way of eye-service,
as people-pleasers, but as
bondservants of Christ, doing
the will of God from the heart,

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... ⁷rendering service with a good
will as to the Lord and not to
man, ⁸knowing that whatever
good anyone does, this he will
receive back from the Lord,
whether he is a bondservant or is
free. —Ephesians 6:5-8 ESV

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¹⁸Even so, I have noticed one thing, at least, that is good. It is good for people to eat, drink, and enjoy their work under the sun during the short life God has given them, and to accept their lot in life. ¹⁹And it is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life—this is indeed a gift from God.

—Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 NLT

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“Life is God’s gift. We must not view our calling as a drudgery, but take pleasure in the calling where God puts us. A cheerful spirit is a great blessing; it makes employments easy, and afflictions light. Having made a proper use of riches, a man will remember the days of his past life with pleasure.

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“The manner in which Solomon refers to God as the Giver, both of life and its enjoyments, shows they ought to be received and to be used consistently with His will and to His glory. Let this passage recommend to all the kind words of the merciful Redeemer,

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“‘Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life’ [John 6:27 KJV]. Christ is the bread of life, the only food of the soul. All are invited to partake of this heavenly provision.”

—Matthew Henry Commentary

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Work is Like an Idol When It...

- Defines My Worth
- Demands My Sacrifice
- Determines My Happiness

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And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’”

—Luke 4:8 ESV

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“Anything that takes you outside
your walk with Christ is a challenge
to your worship of Christ.”

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“Who you work for is more important
than what you do.” —*The Gospel at Work*,
Sebastian Traeger & Greg Gilbert

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“Idolatry is anything you surrender
greater devotion to than Jesus.”

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When Your Job Is an Idol...
You are Desperate for Satisfaction
Through Work

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“Most of our desires for success are actually
our efforts to be for ourselves what only
Jesus can really be for us.” —Timothy Keller

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When Your Job Is an Idol...
You Demand Recognition at Work

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When Your Job Is an Idol...
You Develop Compulsion For Work

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When Your Job Is Not an Idol...
Your Work Becomes a Platform
to Show Love

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³⁷And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
—Matthew 22:37-39 ESV

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When Your Job Is Not an Idol...
Your Work Becomes a Platform
to Serve People

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When Your Job Is Not an Idol...
Your Work Becomes a Platform
to Share Christ

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“We need to serve God
in order to have purpose.
We need to know God
in order to have love.
We need to be right with God
to have self-worth.”
—Tim Keller

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