

Enemy has twisted, world slowly succumbed to believing zealous involvement in any "good" pursuit is righteous. But when those things put before God, becomes idolatry. A little "g" god-counterfeit form of worship (object of adoring reverence or regard).

Timely series, entering Autumn, 3 of my favorite Holidays, all with Christian roots, counterfeited. World has fallen for many little g gods--this series will address 5 of them: Relationships, Spirituality, Security, Culture, and Self.

Relationships addressed first because we all have relationships. Relationship only as good as its authenticity. Whatever isn't authentic is counterfeit. Any relationship that replaces god in priority is counterfeit worship to a little g god.

Foundation Vs: Ex 20:3 – You shall have no other gods before me. 1st of 10 comm

What is God talking about here? No other gods Little g god=idol. Anything you put equal or above God. Pastor Tony last week-where your treasure is, your heart will be.

Today-god OF RELATIONSHIPS – family-friends-work-who do you look to for fulfilment, companionship, accountability, protection, provision?

Today's verse Lk 14:25-27 - Relationships can seem harmless, even great... best ones are! When Jesus TRULY comes first & our relationship with Him & Holy Spirit within us is THE #1 relationship—and we nurture, & pursue it with passion, urgency, & obedience—all other relationships fall into proper perspective and priority. Seek me 1st.

Priorities: GOD-FAMILY-WORK = nice saying, is it really true in your life? The gap? No Other Gods!

Relationships can become little g god, counterfeit worship, fake love- real God=real love

Luke 14:25-27 – ²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and turning to them he said:²⁶ "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Seems harsh. Hate your dad, mom, wife, children, family?... Jesus sometimes spoke with hyperbole-obvious and intentional exaggeration-remove the plank from your eye, easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle-must take the whole of the Bible in context before applying. We discover the "hate" is in comparison to your love for Jesus.

Mt 10 - Anyone who loves dad, mom, son, daughter more than Jesus not worthy of him.

Jesus obviously thinks we should love mother & father, 10 comm.

Mt 15: 1-5- Pharisees counterfeit worship exposed by Jesus. They telling people to give possessions to the temple that should have been used to honor their father & mother.

When Jesus says 'hate their own life' the Greek is soul--immaterial & eternal part of inner person. "I hate my life!" Not lot in life, job, relationships, etc... we need to get over ourselves and our needs and put Jesus first. Hate who we are in comparison to who we can be in Jesus Christ! Verse said "large crowds" following Jesus. He is about community and good relationships. He is for everyone but we need to be for Him first.

We're called to love, honor, respect, support relationships with our family but they do not come first. Doing good deeds for them or anyone else without glorifying God and pointing to Jesus is nice but worthless currency in the Kingdom of Heaven. HE>all

End of today's verse: Disciple is a committed learner and follower of Jesus Christ-not following & learning? Not a disciple. Involves carrying a cross-instrument of death.

In Christ there is Community, Intimacy, Purpose, Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness... There is room for and encouragement to have deep and meaningful relationships outside of Jesus. When those relationships chronically draw, pull, entice, and dominate our time and attention, they are a "little g" god and we give them counterfeit worship. Sometimes we can't help a season of that in our lives—always recalculating.

So obviously children can turn into counterfeit worship. What other Relationships?

Work relationships, flirty relationships, no relationships-dangerous!, pets—living vicariously through any relationship is dangerous and is counterfeit worship.

Counterfeit has no value in comparison to original. Jesus is to be THE top relationship in our lives. No Other Gods! Everything about Him is authentic. He gives us everything we need for a godly life--we just have to take it. He is always holding out blessings. Friend recently told me a story about his grandfather-hold out 2-\$1 bills or 1-\$5 to him as a child. When we follow and learn from Jesus, we learn what has more value.

Been blessed with great relationships – early on my mother, favorite Uncle, my 1st dog, my brother, my grandparents, "Friends" my wife, my job, kids, grandkids, church.

Every one of them failed me to an extent at one time. Some horribly, some died.

What does a relationship with God look like? What do we want out of relationships? Really? Unconditional love. You will never find that in a human. We are always capable of doing something to hurt someone and make them not love us anymore. God will never leave or forsake you. He will love you unconditionally. Sometimes He takes us to the

10.18.20 Service
god of RELATIONSHIPS

Sermon Outline
Counterfeit Worship Series

Campus Pastor Mark Prichard
Luke 14: 25-27

woodshed to prove His love or lets us walk through a dark night of the soul or many dark nights in order to get our attention back to Him. But He loves you with an everlasting love! Get him back at the top of your relationship priority list.

Let's pray... IF NEW, CONTACT-BULLETIN, TEXT, EMAIL- NOW COMM/OFF VID.
Announcements: