

The Descent from Desires

I Desire

- These are good, God-given desires. At their basic desire, they're not sinful and that's the key in understanding idolatry. Things like love, respect, safety, security, acceptance, Godly family, marriage, children etc.

I Expect

- A slippery slope occurs where we start thinking "I want" or "I need" these desires to be met in order to be happy, fulfilled, pleased, etc., in life. Right here, we have one foot in the world and one foot out.

I Demand

- Here we say, "I must have" or "I deserve to have" my desires met. Both feet are in the sin pool now and idolatry has taken root.

I'm
Disappointed

- Here's all the emotional energy when we don't get something that we really, really, really, really, did I say really? Want. We question God's character, love and mercy, get angry, depressed, fearful, etc.

I Judge

- Because idols demand a sacrifice and that we're living for our mini-kingdom, we play the judge and issue a verdict that needs to be carried out because our functional idol (desires) did not get satisfied.

I Punish

- Because our idols (desires) didn't get satisfied, we say, "because you did (or did not) meet my desires, I will respond by_____". We either lash out in anger to tear down the person or we go inflict self-harm to ourselves in the form of "addiction" or other ways.



• Examples in your life:



• What do you find yourself expecting?



• What demands come from your expectations?



• How do people and God disappoint you?



• What judgments do you make of God and people?



• How do you punish others with sins of commission and omission?

Take a minute and think about the one or two things that have a strong grip on you and ask yourself the following questions:

1. What am I willing to sin to get? _____
 2. What am I willing to sin in order to keep? _____
 3. What do I run to as a refuge for comfort or peace? _____
 4. On what do I spend all my time and money? _____
 5. Where is there chaos in my life and where am I discontent with my circumstances? _____
- _____
- _____