



SPRING SEMESTER

Sermon Series: "And First Place Goes To..." (Idols)

Series Description: Idolatry is seeking security and meaning in someone or something other than God. It is worshipping anything that ought to be used OR using anything that is meant to be worshipped. God will put up with a great many things in the human heart, but there is one thing that He will not put up with in it—a second place. He who offers God a second place offers Him no place. Every one of us is, from his mother's womb, an expert in inventing idols, worshipping something other than God. Our aim in this series is to not only call out the idols in our lives but learn how the Gospel demolishes them.

Suggested Order:

- Meal (if you do that)
- Ice Breaker
- Vision Casting/Expectations for Discipleship & MCs
- Discussion Questions
- Prayer

Five Frameworks for Speaking the Gospel

1. News vs Advice
2. Jesus is the hero
3. It's Biblical
4. Comprehensive: I am more sinful than I can see and Jesus is more gracious than I can fathom
5. Endlessly wonderful

Sermon Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Sermon Summary: "Who am I?" That question can be haunting us as we think about our identity and what characterizes our lives. It is especially difficult to answer when the thing we've poured so much of ourselves into is either taken away or come to an end. Professional athletes have to retire. Kids grow up and move out. Jobs are lost. Relationships are broken. On top of all that we feel the silent judgment of people around us, either giving credence or disparity to our performance. But what if there was an opinion that mattered more? What if the work of another could actually free us from trying to find our identity in ourselves and find our rest? From the sermon: *"Our identity is in Christ. We are freed from the tyranny of other people's opinions. If God says we're good, then we're good."*

Opener: What were your takeaways from the sermon on Sunday?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think we, as humans, wrestle with the question, "Who am I?"

It's completely natural to seek out an identity. We want to know that who we are and what we're pouring our lives into really matters and has lasting weight. We know we're not just collections of atoms roaming the universe. Everyone has this sense. This is why we fight for justice, equality, and against oppression...because life matters. And we want our lives to matter. This is why we work so hard to achieve and succeed because we believe success VALIDATES our existence.

The obvious problem is when we answer the question, "who am I," with identities that are both temporary or idolatrous in nature. Jobs are temporary. Physical prowess is temporary. Parenting, to a degree, is temporary. And all of these can be idols; good things that we make into ultimate things that take the place of God.

In the end, the biggest problem we have with answering the question, "who am I," is that it doesn't involve asking a similar question, "whose am I?"

2. Apart from Christ, what things or people do **you** naturally have a proclivity to find or build your identity?

Jobs, Status, Financial goals, Parenting, Sex, Gender identity, Church attendance, Morality, Friendships, Being the 'funny guy,' 'fitness gal,' 'laid-back guy,' fill in the blank .

3. Even with our understanding of the Gospel, why do you think we still make judgments about others? What kind of judgments have you made about others?

There's this thing in us that wants to elevate ourselves above others because we believe (in error) that the higher we are on the social ladder or in cultural status, the more it pads our identity. So we judge people on external things (how they dress, speak, carry themselves, how much money they have) as well as internal (their moral behavior, political opinions, personal philosophy, etc). Whenever we do it, we are denying the effectiveness of the Gospel and

seeking to hold others down for our own gain.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 4:3 and Galatians 1:10. How does God being our ultimate judge, who judges us based on the work of Christ, free us from the opinions of others and worldly identities?

From the sermon: "Paul says, I have realized that there is only one judge who matters; and it ain't you, it ain't me, It's God. And the reason why his judgment matters is because people see in part, but God sees it all. People see our actions, God sees our heart. And there's coming a day when we will have to answer not to other people, not to our parents or critics, but to God. And so we live for an audience of One. That frees us."

*Paul is saying that it is absolutely incompatible with the gospel to labor under the tyranny of people-pleasing and be a servant of Christ at the same time. Our identity is in Christ. We are freed from the tyranny of other people's opinions. We don't work **for** approval. We work **from** approval.*

5. So if our identity is found in the work of Jesus, how does that affect our evangelism and mission? How might this freedom affect your evangelism and mission this week?

One of the big reasons we hesitate to share the Gospel or be on mission with Jesus is because we're afraid of how it will affect our identity and reputation. But if the Gospel frees us from the judgment and opinions of others, then we can speak and share and live out the Gospel before other people (believers and unbelievers) with an ever-growing confidence... knowing that what God says about us is more important and life-giving than what other people say.

PRAYER REQUESTS

ALL CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **2022 Bible Reading Plan: Psalms 1-75.** Get your bookmark with the reading plan in guest services.
- **Foster the City:** Resonate is currently loving and caring for FOUR children in foster care in two different homes. We also have FOUR new families going through the foster care licensing process! This is wonderful news, and means we are seeking TWENTY new support friends to serve in prayer, meal delivery, diaper drop-off, etc. to support these new foster parents.
→If you are interested in learning more about the Foster the City ministry at Resonate and the ways you can help support children and families in foster care at our church, please check out our table after each service on 5/15 or reach out to our Advocate Lead, Christine Gill (510)755-8644 or gillsfosterthecity@gmail.com