

Eyes that Avoid the Lust for People
Philippians 4:19

All sins, at their root, are forms of idolatry. Whatever is a trap for your feet in this life is at heart an idol. When we usually think of idols, we think of stone statues or little figurines on a mantle in a household. In Scripture, we see this definition of idols. “Now Rachel had taken her father’s household idols and hidden them in her saddle, and she was sitting on them. And Laban searched for them” (Gen. 31:34). The ancient world believed that the presence of invisible or distant beings could be attached to image-bearers (idols). We see this practice continuing in the voodoo practices of fashioning dolls in the form of another person. An idol is nothing simply something or someone else other than your Creator being supreme in your life. “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” (Ex. 20:2). The Law begins with a statement against idolatry.

Graced people have come to know “the God of all grace” (1 Peter 5:10) and He is Supreme in our lives. When God calls us, He removes idolatry from us. 21st century individuals struggle with people idolatry. It’s a mom who worships her kids, or a husband who worships his wife, or a person who worships the others’ praise, or girl who worships her boyfriend, or a someone who worships a friend – instead of God. Why do people become idols? We feel like our lives depend on those people; we call it *co-dependency*.

We depend on people instead of God for our sense of identity: “When you give another person the power to define you, then you also give them the power to control you.” — Leslie Vernick.

We depend on people instead of God for our sense of purpose: Co-dependency is inappropriate, over-the-top loyalty, caring and supportiveness. It’s over-the-top because it’s about us, not others.

We depend on people instead of God for our sense of security: Life is stable and comfortable with you.

There is a powerful verse in the Bible that brings the ax-head down on lust for people (people idolatry). “And my God *will supply all your needs according to His riches* in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

I. God providentially knows what you need and vows to meet all your needs.

In Philippians 4:6, Paul says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” And then 13 verses later, Paul gives the liberating promise of future grace: “*My God will supply all your needs.*” As John Piper says, “If we live by faith in God’s promise of future grace, it will be very hard for anxiety to survive.”

II. God promises to *supply* all your needs according to His riches in glory.

This simply means that sometimes you want something now, but it is not an ultimate need for glory. The word “supply” translates the Greek word *pleroo*. It was used in ancient fishing to describe nets “crammed completely full.” It is also a Biblical word used to speak of completion. *No more’s needed*. But what about the phrase “according to His riches in glory”? Colossians 1:27 tells us: “To whom God willed to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Christ is being formed in you (Gal. 4:19). God supplies needs for character and not always comfort. Don’t waste your sorrows; don’t waste your pain. God is meeting a need.

III. God’s presence time of need brings comfort until your need is met.

Isaiah 41:10 – “*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed...I will strengthen you, I will help you.*”

God’s purpose for your life is best seen by viewing life through a rear-view mirror. What’s happened has been filtered through a loving, gracious God, who defines you, and has ultimate purpose for you.