

## The Sin Beneath All Sin

Exodus 32

### I. A dire crisis

This account gives us much insight into the nature and gravity of idolatry

#### A. A breach of the first two commandments

1. "You shall have no other gods before me" [Exodus 20:3]
2. Do not make a \_\_\_\_\_ image--do not worship God in a false manner

#### B. Why are graven images prohibited?

1. Images \_\_\_\_\_ the reality of God  
God is transcendent
2. Images are lifeless--God is "the \_\_\_\_\_ of life" [Psalm 36:9]
3. Images falsify God's sovereign \_\_\_\_\_  
Make God manageable--subject to human control and manipulation
4. Images are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
5. Images \_\_\_\_\_ God of the glory He is due  
*"My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols."* [Isaiah 42:8b]

#### C. Images diminish us as persons--we become what we \_\_\_\_\_

*"Whatever overcomes a person, to that he is \_\_\_\_\_."* [Second Peter 2:19b]

#### D. Causes of idolatry

1. Refusal to \_\_\_\_\_ gratification
2. Convenient \_\_\_\_\_  
They did not consider it worthwhile to \_\_\_\_\_ the knowledge of God [Rom. 1:28]
3. \_\_\_\_\_ pressure--Aaron craves the people's approval more than God's.
4. Bottom line: we want to manage our own lives  
*"\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_"*--an ox that refuses to wear its master's yoke.  
The Israelites want a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ god!

### II. Idolatry: the sin beneath the sin

#### A. What is an idol?

1. Commonly assumed meaning: a carved stone or wooden image
2. Common current meaning: \_\_\_\_\_--sports figures, rock stars, movie actors
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ meaning of idolatry  
*"Whatever claims the \_\_\_\_\_ that belongs to God alone"* [Motyer]  
Idolatry is a \_\_\_\_\_ disorder

#### B. Idolatry allies

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_-shifting

**III. The consequences of idolatry**

*"I will visit their sin upon them."* [Exodus 32:34b]

**IV. \_\_\_\_\_ for idolaters**

1. Moses \_\_\_\_\_ for the people

*"Perhaps I can make \_\_\_\_\_ for your sin."* [Exodus 34:30]

2. The Greater Moses

The only one who can truly atone for our sins.

Propitiation: the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel

*"To satisfy – to appease--to turn away wrath – to make \_\_\_\_\_"*

Our Lord freely offered himself as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins

**V. How shall we then live?**

*"Beloved children, keep yourselves from idols."* [First John 5:21]