



A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

HOLINESS IN FREEDOM: IDOLATRY

1 Corinthians 10:1-22

1 Corinthians 10:12 ^{NIV}

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!



1 Corinthians 10:6 ^{NIV}

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

1 Corinthians 10:11 ^{NIV}

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.



1 Corinthians 10:1-5 ^{NIV}

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.



1 Corinthians 10:6-10 ^{NIV}

Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.



1 Corinthians 10:6-10 ^{NIV}

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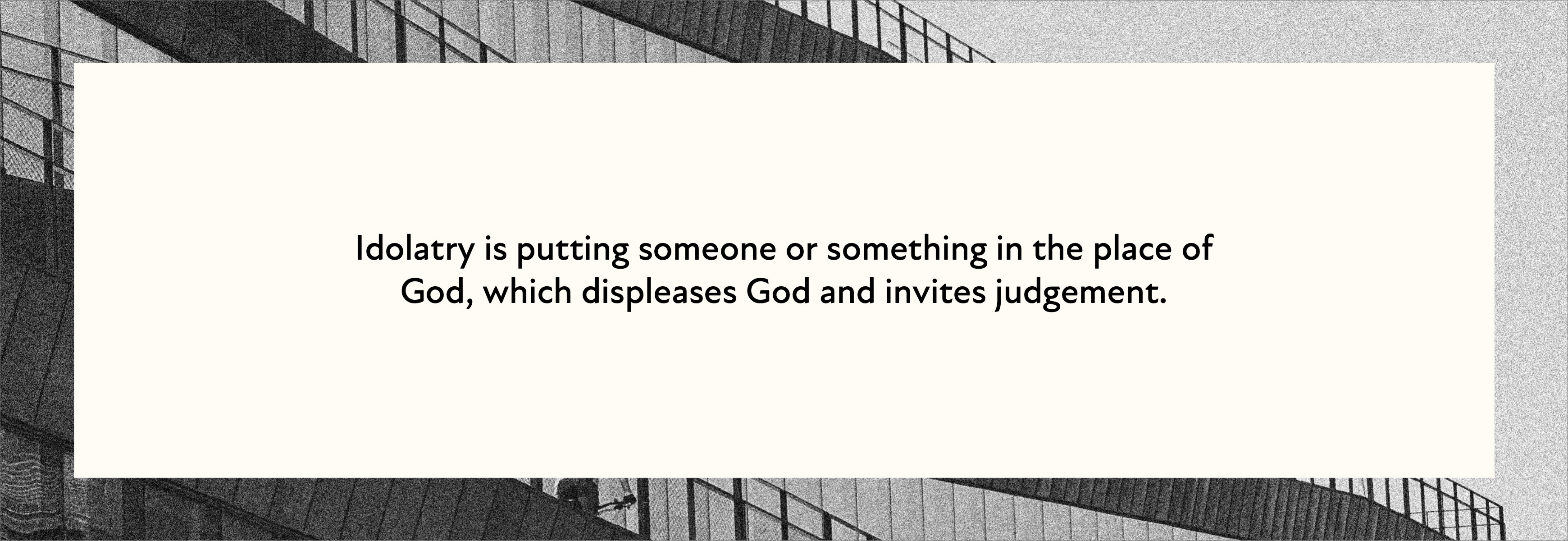
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Idolatry is putting someone or something in the place of God, which displeases God and invites judgement.

1 Corinthians 10:6-10 ^{NIV}

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1 Corinthians 10:11-13 ^{NIV}

These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

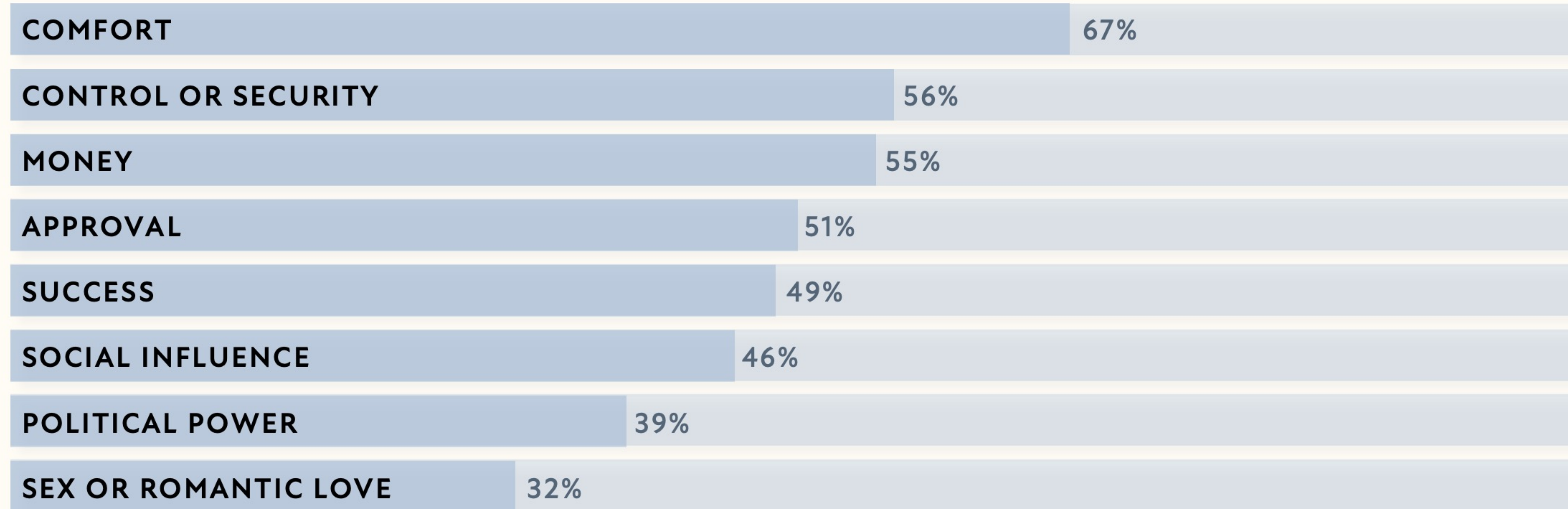


1 Corinthians 10:14-17 ^{NIV}

Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶ Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.



What modern-day idols have significant influence in U.S. churches?



<https://research.lifeway.com/2022/08/09/pastors-identify-modern-day-idols-comfort-tops-list/>



1 Corinthians 10:14-17 ^{NIV}

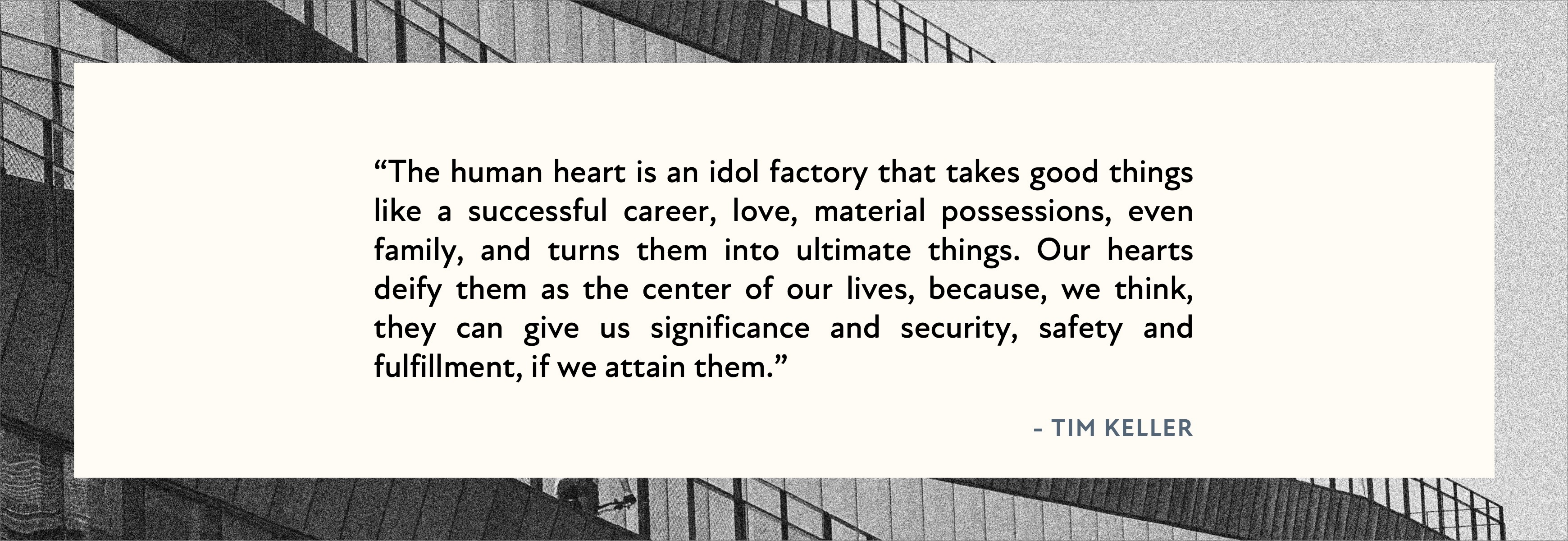
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1 Corinthians 10:18-22 ^{NIV}

Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹ Do I mean then that food sacrificed to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰ No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²² Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?





“The human heart is an idol factory that takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them.”

- TIM KELLER

WE SEEK
CONTROL
 SELF-DISCIPLINE,
 CERTAINTY, STANDARDS

WE SEEK
COMFORT
 PRIVACY, LACK OF
 STRESS, FREEDOM

WE SEEK
APPROVAL
 AFFIRMATION, LOVE,
 RELATIONSHIP

WE SEEK
POWER
 SUCCESS, WINNING,
 INFLUENCE

PRICE WILLING TO PAY	LONELINESS, SPONTANEITY	REDUCED PRODUCTIVITY	LESS INDEPENDENCE	BEING BURDENED, RESPONSIBILITY
GREATEST NIGHTMARE	UNCERTAINTY, CHAOS	STRESS, DEMANDS	REJECTION	HUMILIATION
OTHERS OFTEN FEEL	CONDEMNED	HURT	SMOTHERED	USED
PROBLEM EMOTION	WORRY	BOREDOM	COWARDICE	ANGER





Anything that takes the place of God is an idol. Idolatry displeases God and invites judgement.