

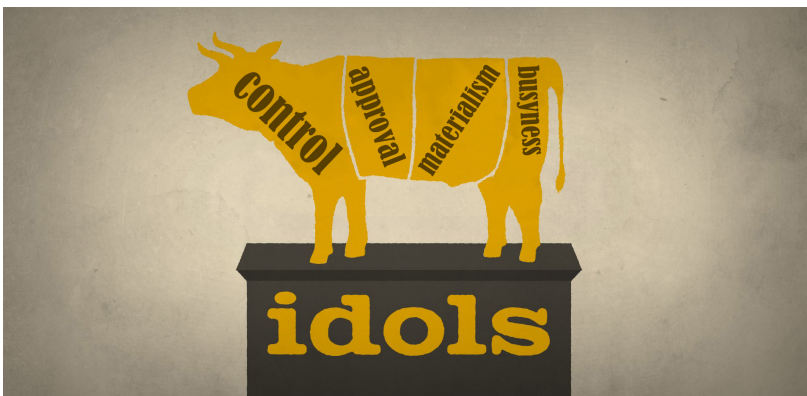
**What is
Idolatry?**

BUILDING BLOCKS

**The Idol of
Approval**

Part 4

On Wednesdays throughout this month, we're looking at a few of the idols that seem to trip many of us up in the 21st century.



This week: **the idol of approval**. As a case study, consider King Jeroboam in [1 Kings 12](#) who built not one, but two golden calves in his kingdom.

- 📍 **WHERE** did Jeroboam get his idea? "...from his _____ heart" ([12:33](#)). It was _____ idea, not God's idea.
- 📍 **WHY** did Jeroboam build them? "Now the kingdom will turn _____" ([12:26](#)). He was being _____, not honoring God.
- 📍 **WHOSE** approval meant the most to Jeroboam? "And he said to the _____, 'You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt'" ([12:28](#))

An easily overlooked weak spot for many of us is our desire for **approval**. When we crave it more than we are determined to walk with God, we make a mess of things ([12:30](#)). Let's talk about that...

For Class & Family Discussion:

- In what way do people "worship" the idol of approval?
- Why do people "worship" the idol of approval?
- Can you think of some Biblical examples of men or women who sought the approval of people over and even against the approval of God? How did it turn out for them? [John 12:36-43](#) might be worth a look here.
- Can you think of an example or two of people who wanted the approval of God above and beyond the approval of anyone else? How did it turn out for them?
- The apostle Paul very plainly states in [Galatians 1:6-10](#), "If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." Why must it sometimes be either/or, not both/and?
- If I recognize that I'm prone to cling to approval as a counterfeit god, what do I need to remember and work on this week?