



Week #4 Temple of Power

Series Theme Verse: *They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!*

Romans 1:25 (NLT)

Three gods in the temple of power that compete for our heart:

1. The god of _____.
 - This god promises us _____.

Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (NLT)

2. The god of _____.
 - This god promises us _____.

So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 (NLT)

3. The god of _____.
 - This god promises us _____.

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT)

How to dethrone the gods of power and keep Jesus first:

- _____ power and value the _____ Body of Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

- _____ others and find _____ in their achievements.

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)

- _____ God's resources and _____ generously.

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Over the past several weeks we've talked about modern day idols that take first place in our lives over God. What have you discovered about your own idols?
2. This week we talked about the temple of power which manifests itself in our desire for success and significance, achievement and satisfaction, and money and security. Which of these are you putting above God?
3. We also shared ways in which you can dethrone the gods of "power" and keep Jesus first. Which of these actions is God inviting you to take this week: (1) Sharing power and valuing the whole body of Christ? (2) Serving others and finding joy in achievements? (3) Stewarding God's resources and giving generously?

Recommended Resources

- *Counterfeit Gods*, by Timothy Keller
- *Gods at War*, by Kyle Idleman
- *Live No Lies*, by John Mark Comer

(NLT) New Living Translation

Week #4 Temple of Power - **FILL COPY**

Series Theme Verse: *They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise!*

Romans 1:25 (NLT)

Three gods in the temple of power that compete for our heart:

1. The god of SUCCESS.
 - This god promises us SIGNIFICANCE.

Then I observed that most people are motivated to success because they envy their neighbors. But this, too, is meaningless—like chasing the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 (NLT)

2. The god of ACHIEVEMENT.
 - This god promises us SATISFACTION.

So what do people get in this life for all their hard work and anxiety? Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night their minds cannot rest. It is all meaningless.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 (NLT)

3. The god of MONEY.
 - This god promises us SECURITY.

Those who love money will never have enough. How meaningless to think that wealth brings true happiness!

Ecclesiastes 5:10 (NLT)

How to dethrone the gods of power and keep Jesus first:

- SHARE power and value the WHOLE Body of Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (NLT)

- SERVE others and find JOY in their achievements.

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT)

- STEWARD God's resources and GIVE generously.

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

Discussion Questions

1. Over the past several weeks we've talked about modern day idols that take first place in our lives over God. What have you discovered about your own idols?
2. This week we talked about the temple of power which manifests itself in our desire for success and significance, achievement and satisfaction, and money and security. Which of these are you putting above God?
3. We also shared ways in which you can dethrone the gods of "power" and keep Jesus first. Which of these actions is God inviting you to take this week: (1) Sharing power and valuing the whole body of Christ? (2) Serving others and finding joy in achievements? (3) Stewarding God's resources and giving generously?

Recommended Resources

- *Counterfeit Gods*, by Timothy Keller
- *Gods at War*, by Kyle Idleman
- *Live No Lies*, by John Mark Comer

(NLT) New Living Translation