Introduction

The Bible tells us that all sin is idolatry.

“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.”

“Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.” Colossians 3:5-8

That message runs counter to our world when it comes to the gods of pleasure.

The gods of pleasure are common.

I. Many of the idols in our lives began as good gifts from God.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” James 1:17

Food is a gift from God, but food can become an obsession.

Sexual pleasure is a gift from God, but our world wants to make sex an end in itself.

The same thing can happen with sports, material possessions and many other things.

How much is enough?

II. These good gifts can become a substitute for God. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

That is idolatry.

Solomon pursued pleasure to the max. He tried:

- Comedy
- Wine and Folly
- Building projects
- Having Servants
- Possessions
- Money
This is his summary statement.

“I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; 
I refused my heart no pleasure.
My heart took delight in all my labor, 
and this was the reward for all my toil.
Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done 
and what I had toiled to achieve, 
everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; 
nothing was gained under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 2:10-11

It didn’t satisfy. It didn’t last.

There is a longing in our heart for something more – for God himself.

III. These good gifts can only be enjoyed when given back to God.

Solomon came to a very profound conclusion after all of his searching.

“A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?” Ecclesiastes 2:24-25

“I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God.” Ecclesiastes 3:12-13

Even the ability to enjoy life is a gift from God.

The way to displace the idols in our lives is not to try harder.

The answer is to surrender everything to Christ as Savior and Lord.

Conclusion

“Every good and perfect gift is from above.” James 1:17

“For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.” 1 Timothy 4:4-5

God’s good gifts are meant to be enjoyed within the boundaries that he has given us in his Word.