

Reflection Questions: Exodus 20:1-2; 1 John 5:20-21  
For the message, "The Idolatry of Work" given by Pastor John Ferguson  
at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on July 8, 2018

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These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to [MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages](http://MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages).

## INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Exodus 20:1-2 & 1 John 5:20-21

A summary of the message: An idol is anything within creation that we substitute for our Creator. Work becomes an idol for us when we look to it to give us an ultimate sense of identity, meaning, and security.

Key Quotes:

- [Romans 1:25](#), "...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator."
- [John Calvin](#), "Every one of us is, even from his mother's womb, a master craftsman of idols." And, "The human heart is a factory of idols."
- [CS Lewis](#), "God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."

Bottom Line:

- When it comes to idolizing our work, the heart of the problem is a problem of the heart.
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Let's get started...

## QUESTIONS

### **1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.**

- Have you thought much about the possibility of work being an idol in which you are tempted to look to for identity or meaning or security? If this is a new concept for you, do you find it helpful? Why or why not?
- How do these passages help clarify what God wants to do in my life when it comes to the way I approach work?
- How does this text show you your need for the cleansing, renewing, transforming grace of God?

**2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.**

- What does this text assume to be true about the community of God's people? In other words, why does both the Old Testament and New Testament warn us about the danger of idolatry?
- How does this text clarify the kind of approach to work that we are called to have in this world?

**3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.**

- How does this text challenge the thinking of our city?
- What kind of new life / future in Christ is this text calling our city to experience?

CONCLUSION QUESTION

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

PRAYER

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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