

Here is a brief list of idol categories. The list may help us to see the broad scope of idolatry in order to better recognize our own:

- **Theological idols** – Doctrinal errors that produce such distorted views of God that we end up worshipping a false god.
- **Sexual idols** – Addictions such as pornography and fetishisms that promise but don't deliver a sense of intimacy and acceptance; ideals of physical beauty in yourself and/or your partner; romantic idealism.
- **Magic/ritual idols** – Witchcraft and the occult. All idolatry is in the end a form of magic that seeks to rebel against the order of transcendent reality rather than submitting to it in love and wisdom.
- **Political/economic idols** – Ideologies of the left, right, and libertarian that absolutize some aspects of political order and make it the solution. Deifying or demonizing free markets, for example.
- **Racial/national idols** – Racism, militarism, nationalism, or ethnic pride that turns bitter or oppressive.
- **Relational idols** – Dysfunctional family systems of codependency; “fatal attractions”; living your life through your children.
- **Religious idols** – Moralism and legalism; idolatry of success and gifts; religion as a pretext for abuse of power.
- **Philosophical idols** – Systems of thought that make some created thing the problem with life (instead of sin) and some human product or enterprise the solution to our problems (instead of God's grace).
- **Cultural idols** – Radical individualism, as in the West, that makes an idol out of individual happiness at the expense of community; shame cultures that make an idol out of family and clan at the expense of individual rights.
- **Deep idols** – Motivational drives and temperaments made into absolutes:
 - Power idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if – I have power and influence over others.”
 - Approval idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if – I am love and respected by _____.”
 - Comfort idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if – I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.”
 - Control idolatry: “Life only has meaning/I only have worth if – I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of _____.”

Keller, Timothy. Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, Power, and the Only Hope that Matters (pp. 203-204). Penguin Group. Kindle Edition.