

WRITTEN IN
STONE

The Second Commandment: Idolatry

EXODUS 20:4-6

“Man’s nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols... Man’s mind, full as it is of pride and boldness, dares to imagine a god according to its own capacity; as it sluggishly plods, indeed is overwhelmed with the crassest...



JOHN CALVIN

“...ignorance, it conceives an unreality and an empty appearance as God.

To these evils a new wickedness joins itself, that man tries to express in his work the sort of God he has inwardly conceived. Therefore the mind...



JOHN CALVIN

“...begets an idol; the hand gives it birth... In almost every age since the beginning of the world, men, in order that they might obey this blind desire, have set up symbols in which they believed God appeared before their bodily eyes.” (*Institutes*)



JOHN CALVIN

G
O
D

#1 – Lordship

#2 – Idolatry

#3 – Representation

#4 – Sabbath

#5 – Honor #6 – Murder #7 – Adultery

MAN

#8 – Stealing #9 – Lying #10 – Coveting

DIVIDING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I. The Command

II. The Reason for the Command

III. The Warning for Breaking the Command

IV. The Promise for Keeping the Command

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

I. The Command

- Don't manufacture idols (Exodus 20:4).

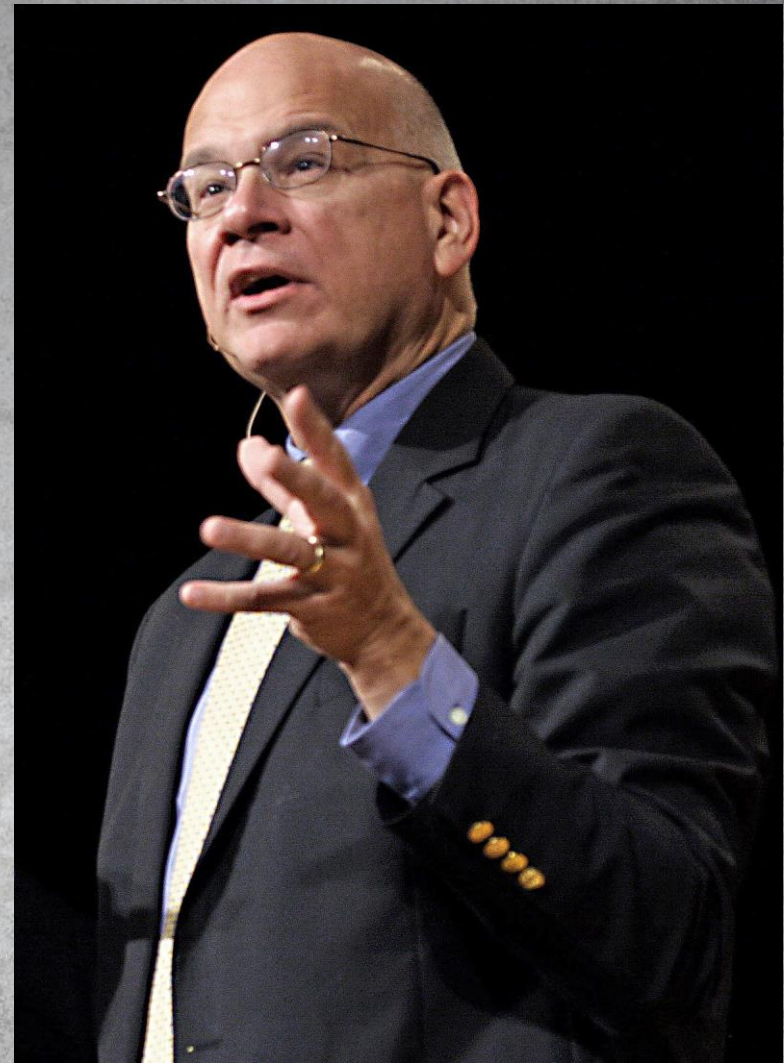
THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

- Or “likeness”
- Definition – the shaping of an object that can be physically identified
- Examples – Genesis 1:26; 5:1; Exodus 20; Deuteronomy 10; 34

“*IMAGE*”

“It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.

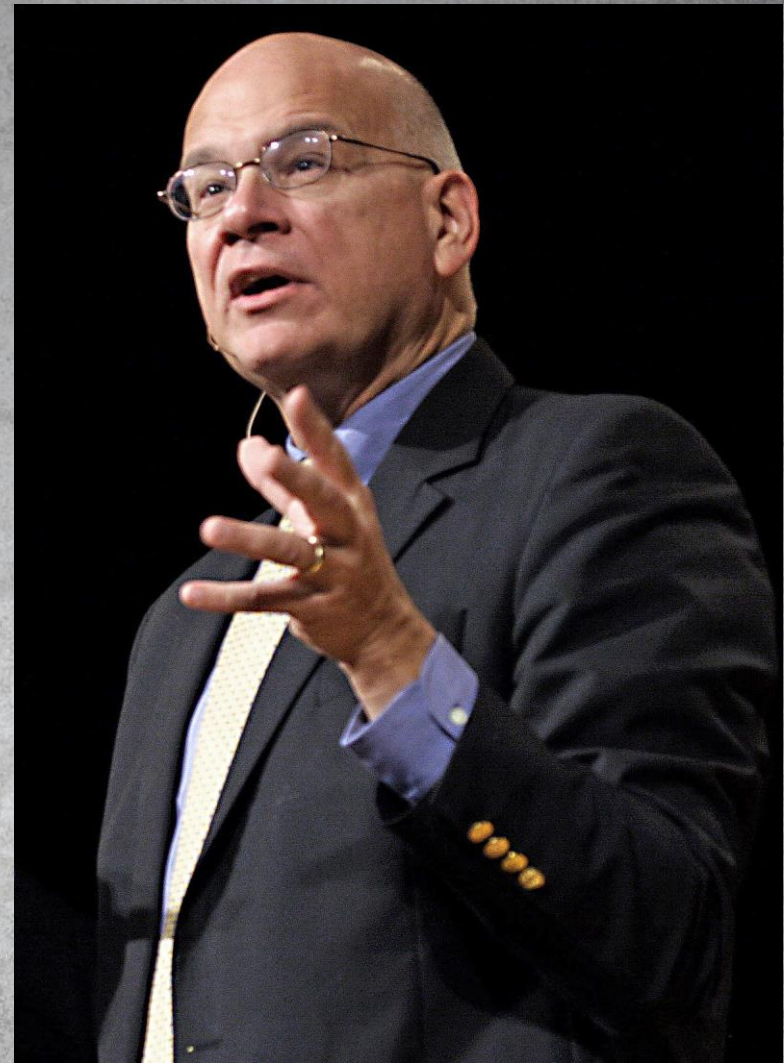
A counterfeit God is anything so central and essential to your life...



TIM KELLER

“...that, should you lose it,
your life would feel
hardly worth living.”

(Counterfeit Gods)



TIM KELLER

- Not forbiddance of religious art
- About the ungodly reverence of created things
 - Ark of the Covenant in I Samuel 7
 - Golden calf in Exodus 32
- Forbidden in other passages: Leviticus 19:4; Ezekiel 14:6-7; Galatians 5:19-21; I John 5:21

IDOLATRY

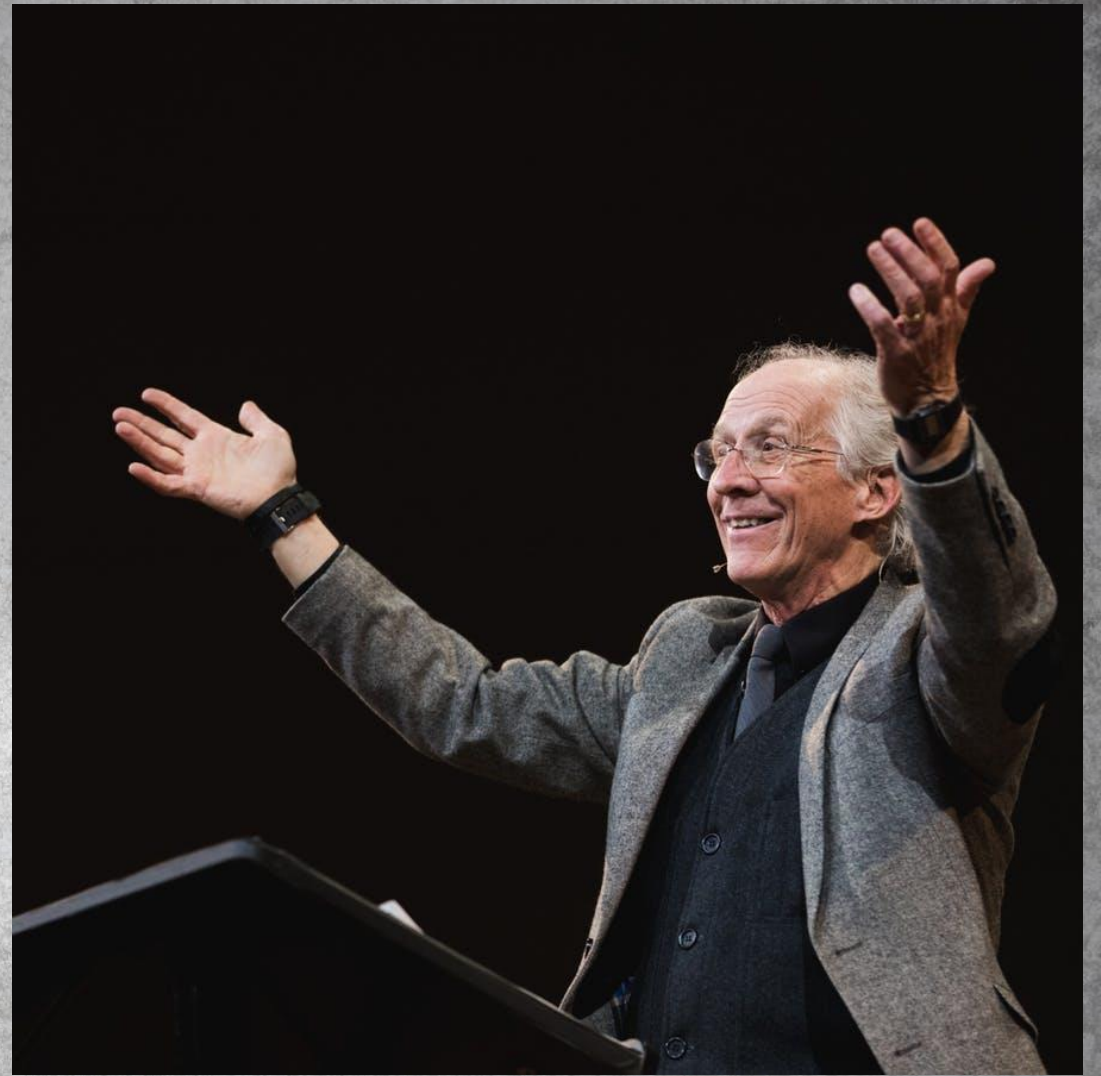
The First commands us to worship God alone and the Second commands us to worship Him as or like He wants to be worshipped.

**1st -
Neglecting
God**

**2nd -
Replacing
God**

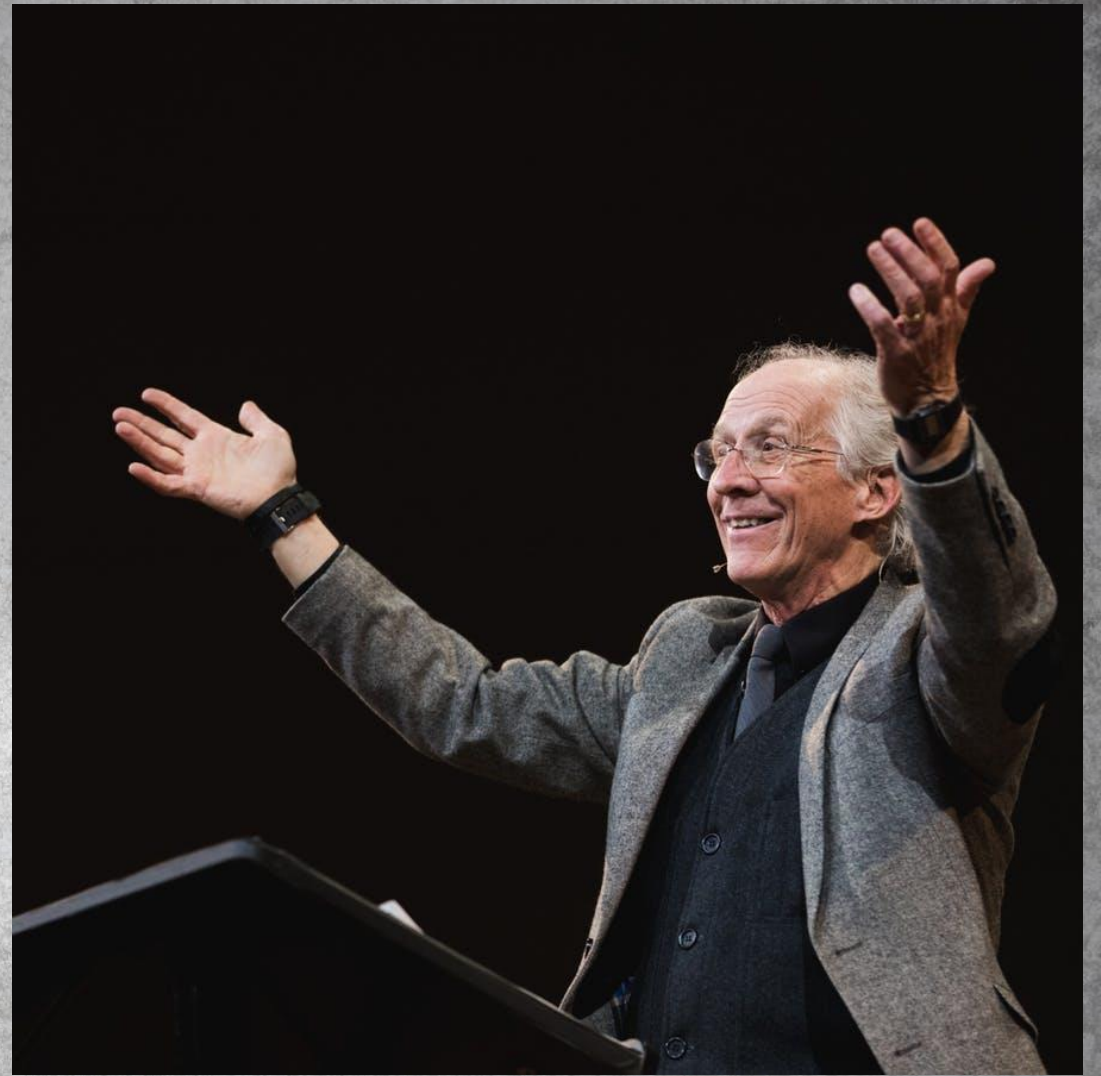
***DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE
FIRST AND SECOND***

“The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night...



JOHN PIPER

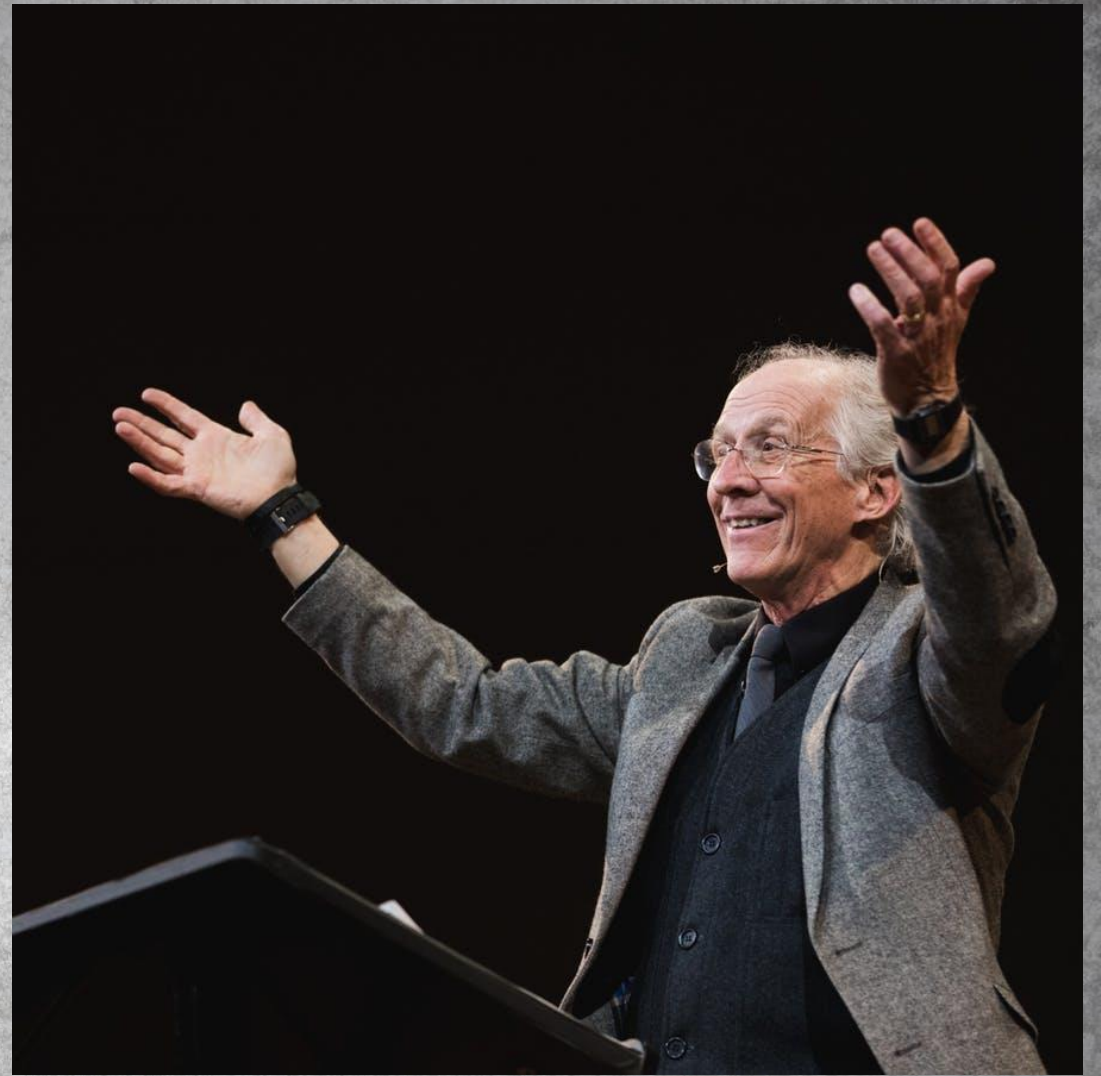
“... For all the ill that Satan can do, when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of his love, it is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen, and a wife. The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil,...



JOHN PIPER

“... but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God himself, the idolatry is scarcely recognizable, and almost incurable.”

(A Hunger for God)



JOHN PIPER

- Athletics
- Vocation
- Children
- Performance
- Politics
- Believing in ourselves

- Physical appearance
- Health and exercise
- Addictions
- Sex
- Entertainment
- Control

SOME EXAMPLES OF IDOLS

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

COLOSSIANS 1:15-16

I. The Command

II. The Reason for the Command

- God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5a).

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

1. “*Bow down*” means “to sink down or to prostrate oneself.”
2. “*Serve*” means “to labor or work in a religious sense.”

“*BOW DOWN*” AND “*SERVE*”

*I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.*

ISAIAH 42:8

*For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,
for how should my name be profaned?
My glory I will not give to another.*

ISAIAH 48:11

“A God who was not jealous for the reciprocal commitment of God’s people would be as contemptible as a husband who didn’t care whether or not his wife was faithful to him. Part of our problem with this profound covenantal reality is that we have come to...



**CHRISTOPHER
WRIGHT**

“... regard religion, like everything else, as a matter of ‘consumer choice,’ which we have virtually deified for its own sake. We resent monopolies. But the unique and incomparable, only living God makes necessarily exclusive claims and has the...



**CHRISTOPHER
WRIGHT**

“... right to a monopoly on
our love.”

*(Commentary on
Deuteronomy)*



**CHRISTOPHER
WRIGHT**

Idols	God
Easy to manipulate	Cannot be controlled
Made from human hands	Invisible; not created

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Disposed when we want them to	Can dispose of us when He wants to
Needy	Has everything

*The God who made the world and everything in it,
being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in
temples made by man, nor is he served by human
hands, as though he needed anything, since he
himself gives to all mankind life and breath and
everything.*

ACTS 17:24-25

“The gods who are idols have got to be dusted like furniture every morning. Their faces are blackened by the temple smoke, and the bats and the swallows and the birds and even the cats settle on them. Set them upright, and they cannot move; tip them over,...



WILLIAM BARCLAY

“... and they cannot raise themselves. They are no more than that which a carpenter or a goldsmith made them. If there is a fire in a temple, the priests can flee, but the gods can only stay and be burned. The temple has to be locked up at nights, lest robbers steal the...



WILLIAM BARCLAY

“... gods and their ornaments. Strong men strip them and go off with the booty, and they can do nothing to help themselves. They are no better than a scarecrow or a thorn-bush in a garden, on which every bird sits. They are no better than a dead body, cast out in the...



WILLIAM BARCLAY

“... darkness...On the other hand it is also true that there is nothing easier to understand than the process by which an idol does come to be regarded a divine. God is unseen, a spirit and a power invisible to the eyes of men. It is very hard for simple people to remember...



WILLIAM BARCLAY

“... and to think about, and to worship, an unseen god. Well, then, let us try to make it a little easier for people. So we make a little image which is meant in the first place to remind us of God when we look at it. We make a little image to represent God...



WILLIAM BARCLAY

“... We make a little image and the first intention is that by looking at the image we can better focus our thoughts on the God for whom it stands. But bit by bit the image ceases to represent God and begins to take the place of God.”



WILLIAM BARCLAY

I. The Command

II. The Reason for the Command

III. The Warning for Breaking the Command

- Judgment (Exodus 20:5b).

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

1. Children learn from their parents.
2. Sins impact the entire household.

IMPLICATIONS OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

I. The Command

II. The Reason for the Command

III. The Warning for Breaking the Command

IV. The Promise for Keeping the Command

- Honor (Exodus 20:6).

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

- What do you think about when you are free to think?

***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

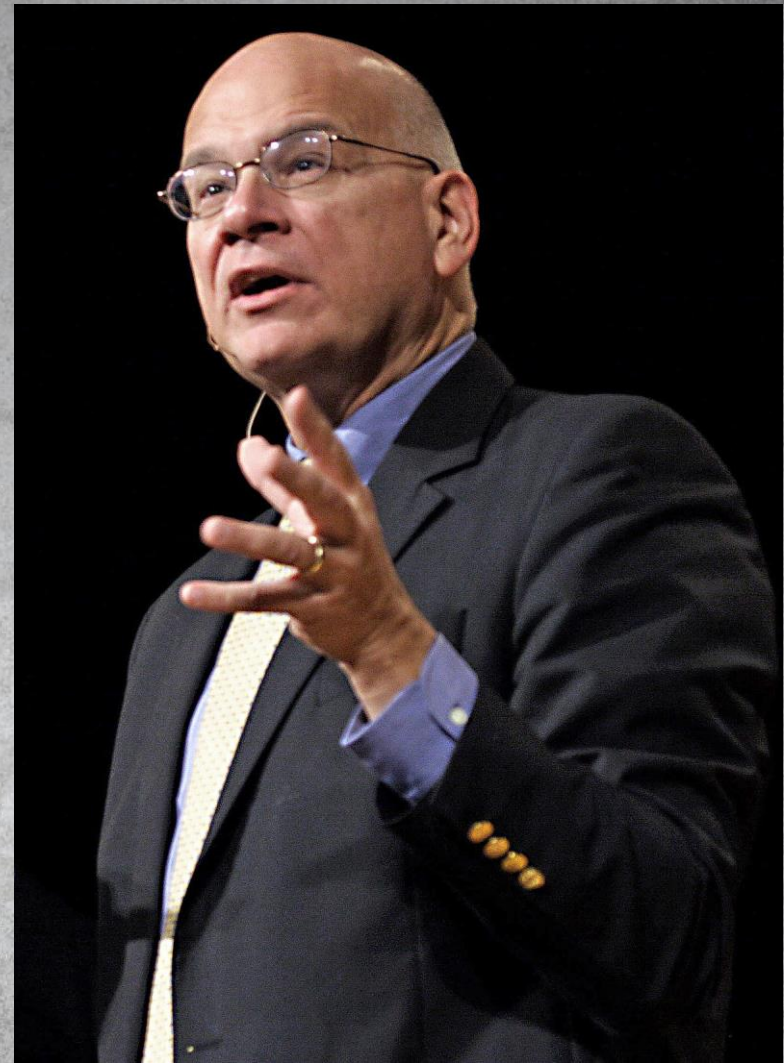
- What do you think about when you are free to think?
- How do you spend your money?

***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

- What do you think about when you are free to think?
- How do you spend your money?
- What or whom do you love?

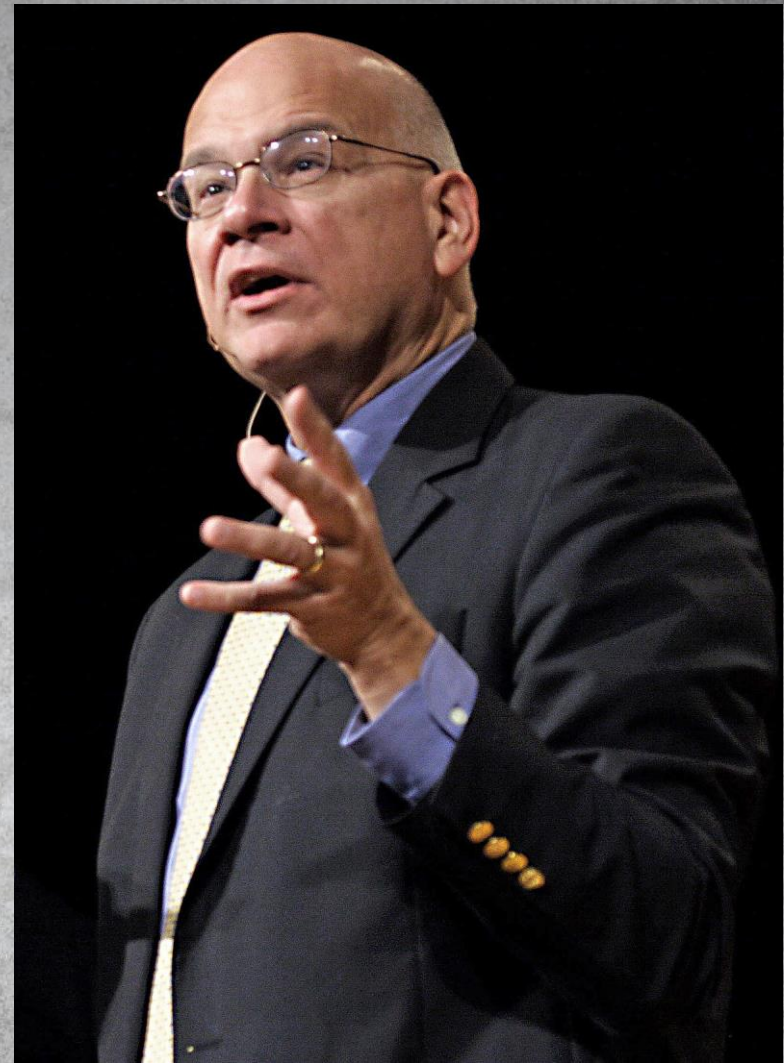
***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

“When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an ‘idol,’ something you are actually worshiping. When such a thing is threatened, your anger is absolute. Your anger is actually the way the idol keeps you in its...



TIM KELLER

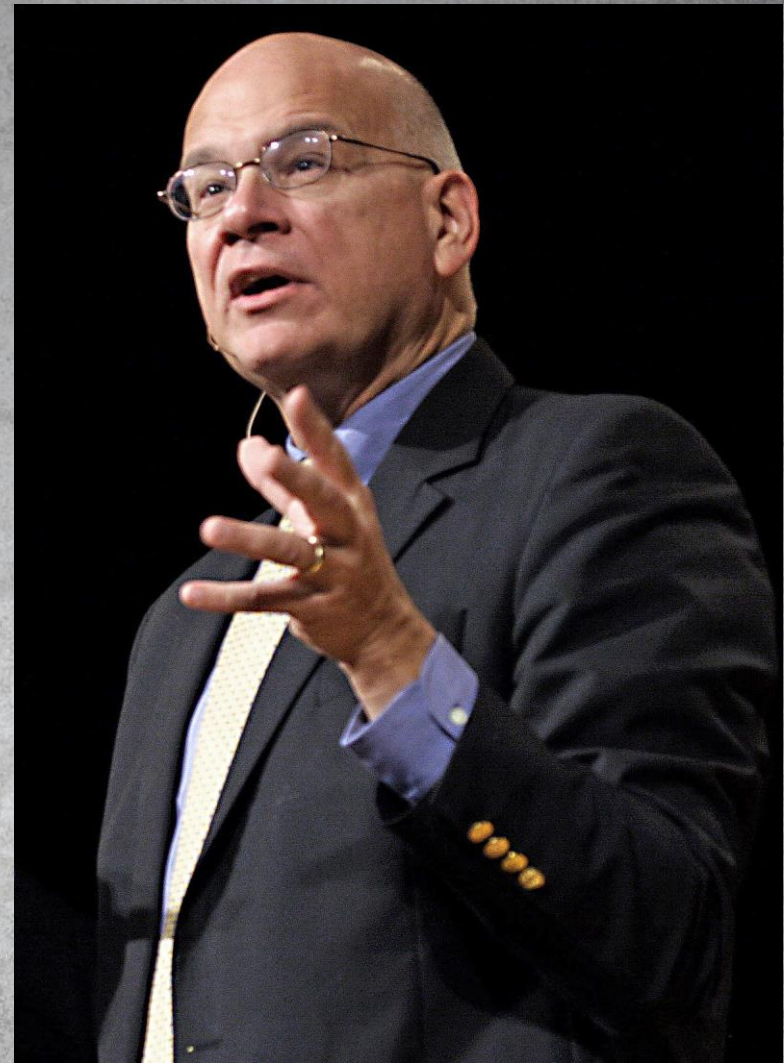
“... service, in its chains.
Therefore if you find that,
despite all the efforts to
forgive, your anger and
bitterness cannot
subside, you may need to
look deeper and ask,
‘What am I defending?
What is so important that
I cannot live without?’ It
may be...



TIM KELLER

“... that, until some inordinate desire is identified and confronted, you will not be able to master your anger.”

(Counterfeit Gods)



TIM KELLER

- What do you think about when you are free to think?
- How do you spend your money?
- What or whom do you love?
- What or whom do you trust?

***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

- What do you think about when you are free to think?
- How do you spend your money?
- What or whom do you love?
- What or whom do you trust?
- Is God using you or are you using God?

***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

- What do you think about when you are free to think?
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- Is God using you or are you using God?
- Are you willing to sin to get it?

***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

- What do you think about when you are free to think?
- How do you spend your money?
- What or whom do you love?
- What or whom do you trust?
- Is God using you or are you using God?
- Are you willing to sin to get it?
- Where do you run for refuge?

***HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY
YOUR IDOLS?***

“God cannot be represented by a picture or sculpture, since He has intended His likeness to appear in us.”

(Commentary on Acts)



JOHN CALVIN