

Hosea

GOD'S FAITHFUL LOVE
FOR HIS FAITHLESS PEOPLE

March 7, 2018

Pastor Ben Hicks

Corrupted Loves and Hollow Lives Hosea 9:10-17

Few things are as heartbreaking as seeing a person addicted to drugs, especially when they can't even see their own addiction. To see a person slowly deteriorate, yet convince themselves the whole time that nothing is wrong. Yet what we see played out on a grand scale with a coke addict is the same thing that happens to all of us when we forsake the love of God for the love of something, anything, inside the creation. We begin to follow the same process of denial and deterioration, which is why we will see today that you should. . .

Love God, not idols, because loving idols will ruin you

What is idolatry? An idol is anything other than God that you turn to in order to make life work. Idols promise us pleasure, peace, and power. Idols are anything you are willing to disobey God to get; anything you refuse to let God have (Colossians 3:5).

- I. **Idolatry will ruin you by destroying your relationship with God.**
 - A. **Idolatry disappoints God (v 10; cf Numbers 25:1-9)**
 - B. **Idolatry steals your love from God (v 10, cf Matthew 6:24)**

- C. Idolatry separates you from God (vv 12, 15, 17)**

- II. Idolatry will ruin you by corrupting your morality.**
 - A. Idolatry leads to disloyalty (v 10).**
 - B. Idolatry leads to immorality (v 10, cf Numbers 25:1-9)**
 - C. Idolatry leads to rebellion (vv 15, 17)**

- III. Idolatry will ruin you by inviting God's judgment.**
 - A. Idolatry will fail you where you trust it most.**
 - B. Idolatry will lead to God's rejection.**

So how do we respond when confronted with idols in our hearts? First of all, we rejoice that God cares about us so much that he would choose to pursue us even when we are unfaithful to him! Second, we confess our idolatry as sin and turn from it, looking to our Savior for cleansing and restoration. Once that is done, we can know with confidence that God will hear us and draw near to us!

Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.

Hosea 6:1-3

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4:8-10