



**“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”**  
**2 Peter 1:21**



## **CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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[facebook.com/cabotwestside](https://facebook.com/cabotwestside)

### **When We Meet**

#### Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am  
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

### **Our Elders**

R.D. Hopper  
Norman Kemper

### **Our Deacons**

Troy Hunter  
Kelly Kendall  
Tony Ramick

### **Our Preacher**

Alex Hale

## **How Idolatry Hurts** By Alex Hale

**Idolatry steals our freedom.** When we put anyone or anything other than God in charge of our lives, we become slaves to that thing or person. The fact is that we will be slaves to something or someone in this life. The only freedom we really have is to choose who or what controls us. Freedom comes from choosing the best master. We are designed to function best with God at the helm of our lives (Acts 17:28).

**Idolatry hurts our children and future generations.** God promises to punish those who do not serve Him (Exodus 20:5). God is not saying that our children and grandchildren will be punished for *our* decisions (Ezekiel 18:20). However, God is warning us that the way we worship has an impact on our offspring. They are affected by our decisions because they are sponges, soaking up whatever they are around. If our children are around us as parents the most, they will often copy our behavior. Scripture provides many examples of this truth. In 2 Chronicles 26 we read about Uzziah. He was faithful most of his life, but he disobeyed God and burned incense in worship when it was not his place to do so. Because of this, he was struck with leprosy. In 2 Chronicles 27 we read of his son Joham who behan to reign when he was 25 and refused to enter the temple. In 2 Chronicles 28 we read of Ahaz, Uzziah’s grandson who began his reign when he was 20. Not only did he stay away from the temple, he closed its doors and began to worship false gods, even having his own children sacrificed to these idols.

- The father started worshipping God the wrong way.
- The son quit going to the temple altogether.
- It could be argued that the grandson worshipped the devil himself.

With that in mind, think about your own life. To what do your children see you devote your time, energy, and money? What idols are there in your life? If those things consume you, the chances are great that they will also consume your children.

**We become like the false gods we serve.** We become like any false image we pursue in life. If we worship self, we become selfish. If we worship wealth, we tend to value it above anything else, even our loved ones. If we worship beauty, we become shallow people – our own beauty becomes only skin deep. God wants us to become like *Him*, not the false, empty images we often pursue.

**It hurts the God of heaven.** God states that He is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). Men, how would your wife feel if she were to see a picture of another attractive woman on your phone? How would she feel if she learned that you and this other woman had an ongoing relationship? Would she believe you if you told her that you loved her with all your heart? The answer is no, because she expects your exclusive devotion. God expects our exclusive devotion. We are commanded to love Him with all our heart (Deuteronomy 6:5).

**We miss the fact that God has already revealed Himself in an image.** God has revealed Himself in an image – not a graven image, but the image of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:1-3). As a young boy once said, “Jesus Christ is the best picture of God that has ever been taken.” We do not need to look any further. Evaluate your life. Are we idolatrous in any way? Are there other things in our lives that would steal us away from whole-hearted devotion to God? If so, commit to cast them away. Commit to make the one true God of heaven the only God that you serve. As we think about images, we are called to be remade in His image. Is that happening in your life? If not, why won’t you make some changes starting today?