

View from the Pews - Idolatry

In July, you may have caught the image of the crowd swirling down Pall Mall for the funeral of a musician known as the Prince of Darkness. Not being a fan of heavy metal music, I felt a chill in my spirit as I learned of his dark stage persona and album titles.

The question that immediately came to mind as the crowds, in numbers exceeding those who gathered in the same mall, when the late Queen died, was not, 'Why would said people gather to mourn this musician, but rather, the words used, such as emulation and adulation?'

Pop idols are not new and many have made significant contributions to the music world. The Beatles, as a pop group, now seem benign (despite our parents' thoughts), compared with the dark persona of the afore-mentioned artist.

Turns of phrase, such as "I idolise" or "just adore" are frequently heard expressions. Innocent enough vernacular, perhaps, but these phrases and language hint of idolatry.

While the secular world abounds in such, we as Christians can also be unwittingly duped by 'false Gods'. In fact, as sin, it was not just the domain of the ancient world of the Israelites worshipping a golden calf (Ex 32) or Eastern mysticism, praying to trinkets, but for us today, anything that occupies our thinking most of the time can be a trap and lead to idolatry. While seemingly innocent, trappings, possessions, body image, jobs, comfort, busyness, money and anything else you choose in today's world can be Satan's weapons. They may dupe us, growing into giants in our lives. Eventually, they may become destructive, steering us away from God, causing him great anguish. God's word warns against such behavior Ex 34:17; Ps 78:30-31 and advises us how to stay obedient Ps 119 -20.

Let us examine ourselves, and review what occupies our thoughts, desires and time (Eccl 5). If we exhibit any of these destructive tendencies, let's come before God in repentance and trust, that he does forgive us, and longs for us to be truly desirous of Him. Let's also remember the value of what we spend our lives on, will be evaluated at the judgment seat of Christ, 1 Cor 3: 13-15. Lest us live by Ps 1:2 and 1 Cor 9:25-27 and be found singing 'I lift my hands to the coming King, to the Great I am, cos you're the one who reigns within my heart; there can be no foreign God, or any other treasure; you are my heart's desire

Marie-Thérèse Borland