

# PROGRESSION OF AN IDOL

An idol is something we set our hearts on instead of God.

## **DESIRE →**

“I want...”

Your desire is what tempts you to sin:

- Epithumia—Strong desire not bad in itself (some bad desires are lust, greed)
- Must be held before God with an open hand
- “I want... peace, dessert, clothes, comfort, fun, respect, admiration, etc.”
- Desire grows and quickly morphs into....

## **DESIRE → DEMAND**

“I must...”

- Left your proper position in submission to God (closed your hand over the desire).
- I am no longer comforted by God’s desire for me—I am threatened by it.
- “I can no longer conceive a good life without it” “I must have it”

## **DESIRE → DEMAND → NEED**

“I will...”

- A devastating step in eventual slavery to desire—now it is essential.
- I view my desire as essential to life (like breathing, I can’t live without it). “I deserve it.”
- “I have a right to...” “I’ll do everything in my power to get it.”

## **DESIRE → DEMAND → NEED → EXPECTATION**

“You should...”

- I am being denied what I need to live life and be happy.
- “You should show you love me by meeting my needs.” (You’re my “needs meeter”)
- The dynamic of improper need driven expectations is the source of conflict.

## **DESIRE → DEMAND → NEED → EXPECTATION → DISAPPOINTMENT**

“You didn’t...”

- Your perceived need doesn’t get met: “Life/our relationships is not the way I expected”
- A lot of conflict is not because others sin against us but they fail to meet our expectations.
- “After all I’ve done for you...” “If you really loved me...”

## **DESIRE → DEMAND → NEED → EXPECTATION → DISAPPOINTMENT → PUNISHMENT**

“Because you didn’t, I will...”

We become hurt, angry, bitter, resentful, because the people who say they love us seem insensitive to our perceived needs so we:

- Strike Back
- Ignore them
- Abuse them verbally or physically

This becomes your kingdom, not God’s. You are no longer motivated by love for God & others. Instead you love things and use people and God to get them.