

Idol worshiping

“ Thou shalt not carve image, or fashion the likeness anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or is in water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor served them: for I am the Lord thy God am a jealous God...” (Exodus 5, 4-5).

This was the second commandment that God gave to Prophet Moses. This commandment may be paraphrase by saying: do not create and worship idols.

In the Apostolic reading of this week, St. Paul also say “For this ye know, that ... nor unclean person... who is idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. “ (Ephes. 5,5)

I would like to draw your attention to the expression “idolater” or idol worshiper.

At the first glance it appears idol worshiper do not exist and appears that this expression applies to ancient history, bur St. Paul explain, that idolater is “unclean person, covetous person, which means that this type of person is not necessary the one who stays before a statue of something and worship it.

This expression, that we should not be idol-worshippers repeated in Holy Scripture many times and in many forms.

What is an idol and what are idols-worshippers that the Holy Church teaches and try to point out to us?

The Lord gave each of us various gifts in various different form – different talents, and we have to develop them in grooving spiritually – preparing us for eternity. Everybody be there weather they believe in it or not it is a fact of life. This is one of the reasons of why God allotted us with them.

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They may be various physical ability and strengths such as voice, memory, and hearings. This also will includes education and related talents that came from it and many, many more examples.

However, the saddest part is that people use those God given gifts not for God's glory, but for our own glorification, even worse, in great many cases we worship them and other man made creations – that is we became idols worshipers. We worship science, education; we worship singing ability beyond the reason.

Look for example, how many talented actors or singers were really religious: there were exceptions, but majority not. Rich Hollywood actors started the high rates of divorces and the rest of the people followed as result of worshiping!

How many attacks were made on Orthodox Lent, but diets are worshiped beyond reason – much harder then Orthodox Lent or look at restrictions that athletes have to go through.

We can go on and on given the examples, but the point is: we, the people created various idols to follow by worshiping them.

We worship our own creation and do not recognize the real Creator, who gave all those talents to all of us, and can take it away anytime, which He does sometime.

In many cases we are our own idols since “WE DO NO WRONG”, and this is very common among us. So the conclusion is: the talents that we got from our Creator – we should use for His glory. Because “...in Christ Jesus neither circumcision , availed any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation (creature)...” (Gal.6,15) which means if we worship in the wrong direction, the WE have to change not a Church. Amen.

(1 Kop.10,17), (Eφec.5,5)