

CRUSHING THE IDOL

April 29, 2018

Introduction: What would it be like to live in a utopian society where all of one's needs were met? One would never have to lift a finger – never wanted for anything – every desire fulfilled. Would this bring fulfillment to society? Instead of a society preventing one from pursuing one's desires, this would be a society that never limited such seeking. Do you happen to know where you can find such utopian society? Could it be a place that is near?

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29–31

I. Zombies

Definition: A dead person given the semblance of life. Most are mute & will-less. All zombies have an insatiable appetite.

QUESTION: Is your obsession enhancing your life or actually destroying it?

Video Clip – Wall-E

Everything I wanted I took—I never said no to myself. I gave in to every impulse, held back nothing. I sucked the marrow of pleasure out of every task—my reward to myself for a hard day's work! (Ecclesiastes 2:10 – The Message).

II. Breaking the Idols

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵ We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).

QUESTION: How does one free themselves from the false promises of that 'something' that would render us complete?

²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (Romans 7:23–24).

III. Identity

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female... (Galatians 3:28a).

Three Subcultures

1. Jew nor Greek – Religious

2. Slave nor free – Political
3. Male nor female – Biological

IV. The ONE

*...for you are all **one in Christ Jesus** (Galatians 3:28b).*

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:25a).

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21).

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:8).

V. Hold Loosely – Why?

1. These things have a tendency to cut at my heart if held too tightly.
2. My desires will not be fully quenched until I am transformed from this body.
3. The days are short.

*²⁹ This is what I mean, brothers: **the appointed time has grown very short**. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, ³⁰ and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, ³¹ and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29–31).*

For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh (2 Corinthians 4:11).

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I. Zombies

QUESTION: Is your obsession _____ your life or actually _____ it? (*Ecclesiastes 2:10*)

II. Breaking the Idols (*2 Corinthians 10:3–5*)

QUESTION: How does one free themselves from the false promises of that 'something' would render us complete? (*Romans 7:23–24*)

III. Identity (*Galatians 3:28a*)

Three Subcultures

1. Jew nor Greek – _____
2. Slave nor free – _____
3. Male nor female – _____

IV. The ONE (*Galatians 3:28b*) (*Romans 7:25a*) (*2 Corinthians 5:21*) (*Philippians 3:8*)

V. Hold Loosely – Why?

1. These _____ have a tendency to _____ if held too tightly.
2. My _____ will not be fully quenched until I am _____ from this body.
3. The _____ are _____.
(*1 Corinthians 7:29–31*) (*2 Corinthians 4:11*)