



Written by  
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## “No Idols!”

### Scriptures:

Exodus 20:4

*“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above, or on the earth beneath, or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God.....”* (NIV version)

Genesis 3

*The account of the temptation in the garden*

1 John 2:16

*“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”* (NAS version)

1 John 5:21

*“Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.”* (NIV version)

**Dramatic Category:** Skermon

**Topic:** 3 kinds of idols (*“Lust of the eyes,” “Lust of the flesh,” and “Pride of life”*)

**Performance Time:** 6 minutes + 20 minute sermon

**Number of Players:** 9 players (*5 men, 4 women*) and the pastor

### Objective:

To show how subtle “idol worship” has become in our modern society. We typically pledge our allegiance to three idols: our passions, our possessions, and our image.

### Synopsis:

This “skermon” traces the three kinds of “idol worship,” (*listed in 1Jn. 2:16*) back to their roots in Satan’s temptation in the Garden of Eden (*Gen. 3:6*) :

1. “...the lust of the flesh,” is traced back to Eve’s decision that the forbidden fruit was “...good for food.” A modern parallel to “the lust of the flesh” is a woman who is

spending an exorbitant amount of time and money at the spa so she can keep her attractive figure: Her idol is her body.

2. "...the lust of the eyes," is traced back to Eve's decision that the fruit was "...pleasing to the eye." A modern parallel to "the lust of the eyes" is a man who allows himself to be coerced into buying a car he cannot afford: His idol is his car.
3. "...the boastful pride of life," is traced back to Eve's belief that the fruit was "desirable for gaining wisdom." A modern parallel to the "boastful pride of life," is a man who is sacrificing his relationship with his wife in order to climb the corporate ladder: His idol is his image in the eyes of others.

**Cast:**

*"The Temptation"*

Satan: *A man in black who animates a snake-puppet or speaks in a hissing manner.*  
Adam: *A man dressed in skin-tones.*  
Eve: *A woman dressed in skin tones, wearing flowers in her long hair.*

*"Lust of the Flesh"*

Rebecca: *A physically perfect spa employee.*  
Laurie: *A woman who is obsessed with food supplements.*

*"Lust of the Eyes"*

Ken: *A pushy man who won't take "No" for an answer.*  
Fred: *A man who must have this car, but who can't afford it.*

*"The boastful Pride of Life"*

Paul: *A husband is on his cell phone during dinner.*  
Donna: *A wife who feels unimportant and ignored.*  
Patty: *A perky waitress*

**Props:**

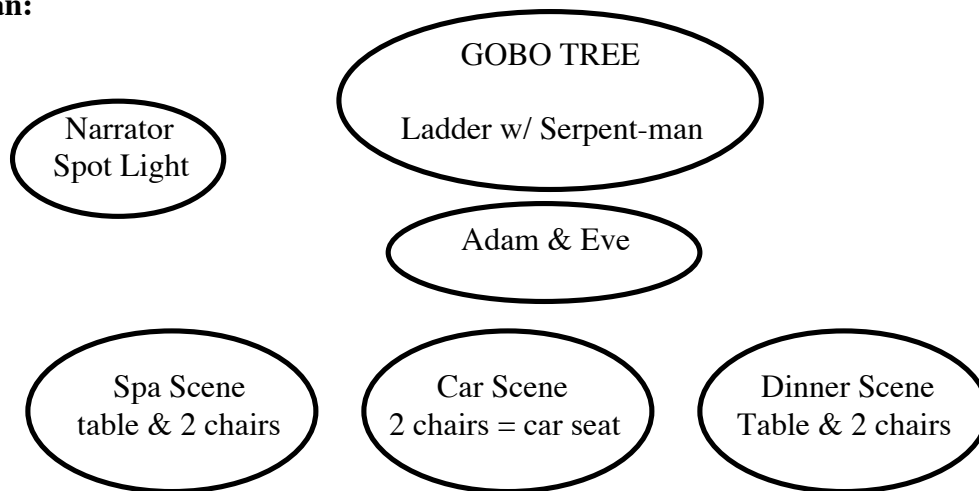
A tall ladder	A car brochure
4 apples	Financing papers
Vitamins	Dinner setting
Packaged foods	Food
Pamphlets	A floral centerpiece
Ledger	Apple pie dessert
Checkbook	Cell phone
2 pens	

## STAGING NOTES:

### Lights:

1. Shine a tree “gobo” in a green light onto the back wall.
2. Point a green spotlight at the center of the ladder to pick up the puppetry of the serpent-man, or his "hissing."
3. At the base of the tree, create a 12-ft. light pool for Adam and Eve.
4. Isolate three 12 ft. light pools down stage: right, center, and left for the contemporary temptation parallels.

### Staging Plan:



### Sound:

**The ringing of a cell phone and any musical transitions you think would be appropriate**

## The Script

**CURTAIN: Closed**

### pastor:

1. *Introduce the 2nd commandment: “You shall not make for yourself an idol.”*
2. *Comment on idols, then refers to 3 categories of idols listed in 1John 2:16.*
3. *Highlight the blatant warning, in 1 John 5:21, to stay away from idols.*
4. *Segue to the origin of these three categories of “idol-making” by tracing them to the original temptation by Satan in the Garden.*
5. *Give background about the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,” then reads from Genesis 2:16.*

**CURTAIN:** Opens on the pastor's cue: *(determined by pastor).*  
*(If you don't have a curtain, the pastor steps aside, and bring lights up.)*

**LIGHT: UP ON TREE GOBO**

**Pastor:** “And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.’”

*(He segues to the part of the story in which Adam and Eve approach the tree and discover the serpent.)*

**LIGHT: UP ON SERPENT LIGHT**

*(Pastor continues)*

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made.”

**LIGHT: UP ON ADAM & EVE LIGHT**

*(Adam and Eve approach the tree and interact with the serpent. The Serpent-puppeteer should writhe around on the ladder and make the snake-puppet an extension of himself.)*

**LIGHT: UP ON PASTOR'S NARRATOR SPOT AT STAGE RIGHT**

**Pastor:** The serpent said to the woman:

**Serpent:** *(snake-like with appropriate hissing!)*  
Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden?”

**Eve:** *(surprised, and drawing Adam's attention to the snake)*  
We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say,  
“You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden,  
and you must not touch it, or you will die.”

**Serpent:** You will not surely die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

*(Eve ponders the decision as the pastor continues:)*

**Pastor:** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food....

**LIGHT: INSTANT BLACK OUT**  
**LIGHTS UP ON SCENE #1 @ STAGE RIGHT**

*(Laurie has her checkbook out, ready to write a check. Rebecca has stacked up a ridiculous amount of food supplements in front of Laurie.)*

**Rebecca:** *(taking one of the bags of processed food & showing it to Laurie.)*  
Now this is good for food. See, it's "pure food," no preservatives...all organic!

**Laurie:** How much is this?

**Rebecca:** I know its a little pricey, but remember our motto here at Eden Spa:  
"We eat to live, we don't live to eat."

**Laurie:** Do I eat all of this in one day?

**Rebecca:** Oh no; this will last you a whole week! *(reaching for one handful of bottles.)*  
This group is good in the morning; after you exfoliate from the toxins that have built up in the night. Use this herbal moisturizer after you drink a cup of this antioxidant tea.

**Laurie:** I'll have to make up a schedule.

**Rebecca:** That's what most people do.

**Laurie:** So, how much do I owe you?

**Rebecca:** Let's see, did you get the deluxe package today?

**Laurie:** Yes

**Rebecca:** *(She figures it up as she talks)* The one-hour massage...  
*(emphatically)* Did you purge your pours with eucalyptus oil?

**Laurie:** Yes.

**Rebecca:** Isn't it amazing how much we can squeeze into only a three-hour visit?  
That will be \$337.75.

**Laurie:** Amazing. *(See looks at Rebecca in disbelief, then writes the check.)*

**Rebecca:** Oh, one more thing. You must eat one of these every day.  
*(Rebecca holds an apple out to Laurie.)*

**Laurie:** An apple?

**LIGHT:** **INSTANT BLACKOUT AT STAGE RIGHT SCENE**  
**LIGHTS UP ON TREE GOBO, SERPENT, ADAM & EVE**  
**LIGHT UP ON PASTOR'S SPOT**

*(The conversation between Eve and the Serpent continues in pantomime.)*

**Pastor:** And she saw that it was pleasing to the eye.....

**LIGHT:** **INSTANT BLACK OUT**  
**LIGHTS UP ON SCENE #2 @ CENTER STAGE**

*(Two chairs are placed side by side, like the front seat of a car. Fred is seated in the driver's seat. He is admiring an imaginary car. Ken approaches with papers in his hand, bends down and speaks through the imaginary window.)*

**Ken:** She's quite an eye-full.

**Fred:** I have got to have this car.

**Ken:** *(He opens an imaginary door and sits beside Fred.)*  
Well, I want you to have this car.  
At this price, I could use the commission; but, we got your credit report back,  
and.....well....  
Is there somebody who can co-sign for you on this deal?

**Fred:** Is my credit bad?

**Ken:** You've got quite a few "late charges," and your debt-to-limit ratios are very high.

**Fred:** I can fix that.

**Ken:** You can?

**Fred:** Yeah, here's what I do....  
See, I shift my balances about every six months when I get those 0% credit card offers in the mail. That way, when I make payments, I'm actually messing with the principle. There's a trick to sound "financial planning," ya' know. This way, I've always got a new credit card for those "must-have" purchases. So....can I put this down payment on my VISA?

**Ken:** Are you serious?

**Fred:** This car is the "apple of my eye."

**LIGHT:** **INSTANT BLACKOUT AT CENTER STAGE SCENE**  
**LIGHTS UP ON TREE GOBO, SERPENT, ADAM & EVE**  
**LIGHT UP ON PASTOR'S SPOT**

*(The pantomime continues between the Serpent, Adam & Eve.)*

**Pastor:** And she saw that it was desirable for gaining wisdom.....

*(Paul and Donna are at dinner. Paul is on his cell phone with his back to Donna who is fuming with anger and tapping her fork on the table.)*

**Paul:** *(speaking into his cell phone)*  
Thank you, sir. I try to make wise choices.  
If you'll look at my sales report on the Eastern Seaboard,  
you'll see that it's all about strategy.

*(He pauses while Donna begins to squirm in her chair.)*

All right, I'll catch a plane Friday morning;  
I should be ready to meet with the "strategic planning" team within 24 hours.  
*(Pause)* Sure, an electronic ticket will be fine,  
just e-mail the confirmation number, that's all I need.

*(He ends the call, turns back around toward Donna, and is surprised by her sharp response.)*

**Donna:** That is all you need, isn't it?

**Paul:** What?

**Donna:** All you need is your next appointment, so every head in the room can turn to admire your "words of wisdom."

**Paul:** My job is very demanding. I have to be available or I'm going to blow what I have worked so hard to get.

**Donna:** *(leaning over the table)* You sure are.

**Paul:** What's that supposed to mean?

**Donna:** For a strategic thinker you're missing the point, big time.

**Paul:** Would you make your point?

**Donna:** All right, I will.  
I'm tired of squeezing in conversations between cell phone calls,  
and when I see do you, you're obviously bored with my little life.  
Every family gathering is an inconvenience to you;  
your mind is always somewhere else.  
Your son's play-offs are this weekend.  
You're going to miss them, aren't you?

**Paul:** *(holding up his cell phone)*  
I have people coming to a meeting.

**Donna:** Right, maybe you should spend less time with the people who are coming to your meeting and more time with people who would cry at your funeral.

**SOUND:** **CELL PHONE RINGS**

**Paul:** *(He is about to speak when his cell-phone rings.)*  
Hold on.

*(PAUL turns his back to DONNA. She hesitates for an instant, then leaves. The WAITRESS enters with one order of apple pie. Paul ends his call, turns around and sees that DONNA has left. He looks up at the waitress.)*

**Waitress:** Will she be back?

**Paul:** I don't know.

**Waitress:** Well, I guess this pie is just for you. Now you don't have to share.

**Paul:** What kind is it?

**Waitress:** Apple.

**LIGHT:** **INSTANT BLACKOUT AT CENTER STAGE SCENE**  
**LIGHTS UP ON TREE GOBO, SERPENT, ADAM & EVE**  
**LIGHT UP ON PASTOR'S SPOT**

**Pastor:** She took some and ate it.  
She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.  
*(The serpent hands an apple to Eve. She bites into it and hands it to Adam.)*

**LIGHT:** **LIGHTS FADE OUT SLOWLY ON ALL LIGHTS**  
**PASTOR'S SERMON LIGHT COMES UP**

**Pastor:** *(He makes a transition from the temptation in the Garden to the three kinds of temptations that have been portrayed.)*

**CURTAIN:** **Leave it open**

**OPTION:** *He may want to go to each scene and pick up some prop that was left by the players.*  
*For example:*

**Scene #1:** *a jar of vitamins = "Lust of the flesh"*

**Scene #2:** *a credit report = "Lust of the eyes"*

**Scene #3:** *a cell phone = "Boastful pride of life"*