

SOPHISTICATED IDOLATRY

1 Corinthians 10.14-22

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6.12

A. The Power Behind the Idol

B. Today's 'Sophisticated Idolatry'

"If anything besides God gets our best thoughts, our tears, our feelings and our energy—are we not just more sophisticated idolaters?"

C. Paul's Command: *Flee from Idolatry* v 14

1. **BELIEVE** that there are evil *powers of this dark world*. Eph. 6.12

2. Be **ON THE ALERT**

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5.8

3. Don't **FREAK OUT**

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 1 John 4.4

4. **PROTECT YOURSELF** – Ephesians 6.10-17

5. **ARM YOURSELF** – Participate with Christ and His Church!

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf.

1 Corinthians 10.16-17

Take.....the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6.17-18

6. Work to **RELEASE OTHERS**

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me ... He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and ... to set the oppressed free..." Luke 4.18

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5.18-20



What is God saying to me?

What am I going to do about it?