

PRINCIPLE #1

AUDIENCE OF ONE

God Alone Is Worthy of Your Worship

PRE-GAME WARM UP

Context: In many ways the whole story of the Bible can be seen as a struggle, conflict or even competition, between faith in God (trusting in the God revealed in the Bible) and idolatry (trusting in someone or something other than God to bring deep satisfaction, significance, and success).

Read **1 Kings 18:1-40**

1. Reread v21-24. How would you characterize or describe the people's commitment to God (18:21-24)?

What was their problem?

2. Many different things (good and bad) compete for our attention, our allegiance, our time, etc.

Who or what competes most strongly for your attention?

3. What do you stand to lose most by letting go of your idols?

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Ask: Who or what do I worship?

Read: 1 Kings 18:20-40 "Elijah and the prophets of Baal"

Theme: God alone is worthy of your worship

Live It: Learning to turn away from false idols and toward the true God transforms service into worship

What is an "idol"?

How do we define "worship"?

I. PROBLEM! _____ Worship: Choosing between the living God or counterfeit gods (18:21-24)

"The greatest danger...is not that we become atheist, but that we ask God to co-exist with idols in our hearts." Tim Keller

II. WARNING! _____ Idols: Counterfeits don't ultimately deliver what they promise (18:25-29)

Idols are _____, but still speak (v26,29)

Idols are _____, but still strong (v27)

Idols are _____, but still promise life (v28)

How does serving become an idol?

Extreme pressure + Powerful influence + Passion to serve + Intoxicating emotions

III. RESPONSE! _____ Surrender: Believe that God is supreme and worthy of my continual submission (18:30-39)

Heart _____: Value what God values (v36,37)

New prayer: From "It's *all* about *me*" to "It's *all* about *You*"

Life _____: Live out what God values (v39) L
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New response: Let God rule my *every* thought and action

IV. REVELATION! _____ Savior: Following Jesus changes everything

John 14:6

John 10:10

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Occupation = Idol	Occupation = Opportunity for Worship
Use God as a rabbit's foot/good luck charm for your personal gain, win, or power	God chooses you to reflect His excellent character through your effort, attitude, intensity and sportsmanship
Serve to prove and justify your value and worth	God has determined your value and worth before you even begin to serve
Disrespect for professional ethics (often ignoring them or breaking them) and only abide by them when it is to your advantage or you might get caught if you publicly violated the ethics	Ethically serve all the time because they express what is fair, just and orderly (God's character) in order to serve professionally
Being the best is everything and the only thing	Working to succeed consists of a serious challenge while enjoying the pursuit
Happy when your opponent competes poorly or is hurt because your only concern is your welfare (winning)	Believe and want the best both for your team and your opponent because everyone is striving together toward excellence
Unrealistic expectations for yourself/team and fail to acknowledge your/athlete's limitations	Accept your God-given abilities and your/athlete's limitations
Give 100% only when colleagues, coach, family, friends, media, others are watching	Give 100% both publicly and privately because God is your audience
Do whatever it takes to win because the end justifies the means	What matters most is how you serve the athletes
View your colleague/opponent as the enemy and competition like war	View your opponent as co-laborer/co-competitor who deserves respect
Jealous of other's success because it means they are out-performing me	Thankful for others' success because it pushes me to perform better
See serving athletes as a right and something you must have in order to make it in life	See serving athletes as a privilege and gift
Unteachable spirit and disrespectful toward colleague/authority	Teachable spirit and respectful toward colleague/authority
Your job is your deliverer from your past, your poor circumstances or your family situation	God delivers and redeems you

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LAB REFLECTION TIME

What is the question we are asking for this principle?

- Who or what do I worship?

What is the main point(s) of this Principle?

- It is a Lordship talk – Athletic Training and Strength & Conditioning are good things but they can be misdirected as idols.
- Learning to serve for the ultimate audience.
- God owns you and your job/career/profession.

Discussion Questions

1. What is one thing you learned, one thing that stuck out to you, or one thing that confused you about the Principle we just learned about?
2. Is there a part of your job/career that you are making your idol?
 - a.
 - b.
3. How do you keep your focus on an Audience of One? How could this transform the way you view your career and personal life?
 - a. How can you make more time for God in this busy career?
4. What is your greatest achievement in your career? (Share a “war story”)
 - a. How did that make you feel?

**“Learn to serve for the
ultimate audience.”**