

## **The Images that Make Us**

### **Ready:**

“The heavens proclaim his righteousness; all the peoples see his glory. All who serve carved images, those who boast in worthless idols, will be put to shame. All the gods must worship him.” – Psalm 97:6-7

### **Set**

In athletics, it's easy to be drawn to professional players and see them as mini-gods. Those of us who work hard at our game see the success of the pro players and want that same success for ourselves.

But what is the line that makes us cross from admiration to idols? The crossing of that line centers around who and what you identify with. Your identity is what you believe you are, and there are usually many aspects of yourself that make up your identity.

We all know that the people we make into idols are, in fact, just humans, and our identity typically isn't found in being just like them but in the images that make that person great. For example, the image of strength, speed, agility, success, leadership, charisma, beauty, etc., can quickly turn into idols themselves. Idols are not just people; they can also be the images associated with those people.

Psalms warns us against worshiping idols and images. Most of us understand that LeBron James and God are not the same and, thus, should not be put on the same pedestal. We need help with the internal idols of the images we want to be known for. We elevate the images of strength and speed, intelligence and charisma, beauty and popularity until they have surpassed God in what you are pursuing as your own identity. We want to be known by these characteristics and pursue perfection in these areas instead of those that matter to God.

Examples of what God wants us to pursue as images of our identity can be found in [Galatians 5:22-23](#): “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” These are the images that, when we pursue them, make our identity rooted in Christ and not worthless idols of this world.

### **Go**

- What world images do you need to release from your identity today?
- Why do you admire who you admire in sports?

### **Workout**

Galatians 3:27-28

1 John 3:1-2

### **Overtime**

“Abba Father, we shall not worship any idols, only You. It is so easy for us to make idols and worldly images as markers of our identity. Convict and show us where we have elevated this world’s standards above Yours. Remove any idols that prevent us from worshiping You to the fullest. Amen.”



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