

Title: Who's the boss?
Pastor: Heinrich Titus
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No other gods

Exodus 20:1-5

¹And God spoke all these words, saying: ²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³"You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵ you shall not bow down to them nor serve them....

Distance opens the door

Exodus 20:18-22 The Message

¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." ²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. ²¹The people kept their distance while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

God, Moses, or the calf

Exodus 32:1

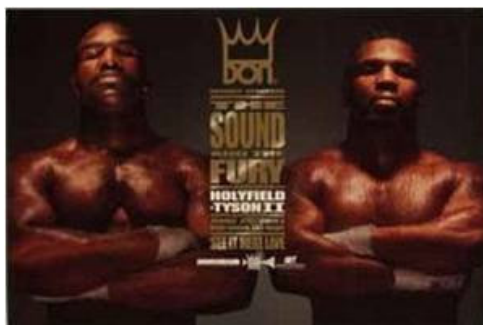
¹ When the people realized that Moses was taking forever in coming down off the mountain, they rallied around Aaron and said, "Do something. Make gods for us who will lead us. That Moses, the man who got us out of Egypt—who knows what's happened to him?"

Out of the house of bondage

Galatians 4:6-9

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"⁷ Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.⁸ But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. ⁹ But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

Two idols collide



Idols enslave us

Mike Tyson

"The king of them all is boxer Mike Tyson, who squandered a \$350 million to \$400 million dollar fortune. So what did "Iron" Mike spend his fortune on? Everything. He dropped half a million dollars on a 420-horsepower Bentley Continental SC with lamb's wool rugs, a phone and a removable glass roof. It is one of only 73 Bentley Continental SCs ever built. The sad part is that's not even the only Bentley that Tyson owned! He spent over \$4.5 million dollars on cars alone. Throw in a \$2 million dollar bathtub and \$140,000 for two Bengal tigers and you can see why Tyson's fortune is down for the count. He filed for bankruptcy in 2003."

By Mark Riddix, Investopedia.com

Idols leave us ashamed

Evander Holyfield

"Four-time boxing champ Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield reportedly made over \$250 million in cash during his boxing career, but despite this he reportedly is flat broke. Holyfield lost all his money by making "smart" business decisions look really foolish. You thought buying a house was a smart move? It normally is, but not when you buy a house the size of Rhode Island. Holyfield bought a \$20 million house with over 54,000 square feet and 109 rooms. The house has 11 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms, a movie theater, a bowling alley and an Olympic-size swimming pool. Imagine how much it must cost to cut the grass on all 235 acres! You could buy a Range Rover with the electric bill payment alone."

Idols are never satisfied

John Daly

"Two-time PGA major champ John Daly gambled away between \$50 and \$60 million in career earnings, according to his 2006 autobiography. Daly once lost \$1.65 million in five hours playing the slot machines at a casino. If you think that's impressive, there's more. Daly blew \$1.2 million in a mere two hours and 30 minutes at a casino in Las Vegas.

Idols betray us



Idols set us up for defeat

"U can't touch this", and few could. The song topped charts in 1990 and earned an estimated \$30 million. At the top of the ride Hammer had a \$12 million dollar mansion in Fremont, CA, 17 luxury cars and a staff of 250.

"Hammer time" was over by 1996, when \$13.7 million in the red, he declared bankruptcy.

A challenge for all of us

Matthew 4:8-10

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'

Submission: our choice

Romans 6:16-18

¹⁶ Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? ¹⁷ But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸ And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Who's the boss?

Romans 6:14

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

The yoke of slavery



The yoke of love

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Out of the mouths of babes

'Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.'

Chrissy - age 6

'If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate,'

Nikka - age 6

'Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.'

Elaine - age 5

'Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford.'

Chris - age 7

'I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.'

Lauren - age 4

The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, 'Nothing, I just helped him cry.'

Grace: the key to freedom

Luke 19:1-10

¹ Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. ² Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." ⁶ So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. ⁷ But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." ⁸ Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of

my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Do you expect to get what you deserve?

Luke 23:39-42

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us! ⁴⁰ But the other one made him shut up: "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. ⁴¹ We deserve this, but not him—he did nothing to deserve this. ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom. ⁴³ He said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise.

Grace to be different

Romans 12:6-8

⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith; ⁷or ministry, *let us use it* in *our* ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.