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# LEVITICUS





**It's illegal not to walk your dog  
at least three times a day in Turin, Italy**

**It's a legal requirement to smile at all  
times except at funerals or hospitals in  
Milan, Italy.**

**It's Illegal to Wear High Heels  
to the Acropolis**

**In Samoa, it's illegal to forget your  
wife's birthday**

**You must let anyone use your toilet  
if they ask in Scotland**

**Winnie the Pooh is banned  
in a town in Poland**









sex





**No killing of animals that  
will not be offered to YHWH  
at the Tabernacle.**

## Leviticus 17:3–4

If any one of the house of Israel **kills an ox or a lamb or a goat** in the camp, or kills it outside the camp, and **does not** bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting to offer it as a **gift to the LORD** in front of the tabernacle of the LORD,



Leviticus 17:3–4

**bloodguilt** shall be imputed to that man.  
He has shed blood, and that man shall  
be **cut off** from among his people.



## Leviticus 17:8–9

“And you shall say to them, Any one of the **house of Israel, or of the strangers** who sojourn among them, who offers a burnt offering or sacrifice and **does not bring** it to the entrance of the tent of meeting **to offer it to the LORD**, that man shall be **cut off** from his people.







**No killing of animals that  
will not be offered to YHWH  
at the Tabernacle.**





**No eating blood or  
any animal that has not  
had its blood drained.**

## Leviticus 17:10



“f any one of the house of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn among them **eats any blood, I will set my face** against that person who eats blood and will **cut him off** from among his people.

## Leviticus 17:13



Any one also of the people of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn among them, who takes in hunting **any beast** or bird that may be eaten shall **pour out its blood** and cover it with earth.

Leviticus 17:11

**For the life of the flesh is in the blood,**



Leviticus 17:11



**For the life of the flesh is in the blood,**  
and I have given it for you on the altar  
to make atonement for your souls, for  
it is **the blood that makes atonement**  
**by the life.**

Leviticus 17:15–16



And every person who **eats what dies of itself or what is torn by beasts... unclean** ... if he does not wash them or bathe his flesh, he shall bear his **iniquity**.





**No eating blood or  
any animal that has not  
had its blood drained.**

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**Clear prohibitions**



**SEX**

**Leviticus 18:6**

**None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the LORD.**



Mother

Step-mother

Sister

Step sister

Granddaughter

Aunt (father's or mother's sister)

Aunt (wife of father's brother)

Daughter-in-law

Sister-in-law

Step-daughter

Step-granddaughter

Mother-in-law



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Leviticus 18:19

You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in her **menstrual uncleanness**.



SEX

Leviticus 18:20

And you shall not lie sexually with your **neighbor's wife** and so make yourself unclean with her.



SEX

Leviticus 18:21

You shall not give any of your **children to offer them to Molech**, and so profane the name of your God:  
I am the LORD.



Leviticus 18:22

You shall not **lie with a male as with a woman**; it is an abomination.



SEX



SEX

Leviticus 18:23

And you shall not **lie with any animal** and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman **give herself to an animal to lie with it**: it is perversion.



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**Intention**





## Background

A ban on the sale, import and manufacture of chewing gum in Singapore took effect on 3 January 1992, four days after the ban was announced in *The Straits Times*.<sup>1</sup> The ban encompassed all substances made from the "gum base of vegetable or synthetic origin", such as "bubble gum or dental chewing gum". Once the ban was in force, anyone entering Singapore were required to declare any chewing gum in their possession at immigration checkpoints.<sup>2</sup>



### Reasons for the ban

On 30 December 1991, the Environment Ministry (ENV) released a statement explaining that the ban was to be imposed primarily because chewing gum litter had disrupted the smooth running of the mass rapid transit (MRT) trains. In July and August 1991, gum stuck between MRT train doors caused the trains to stop as the doors could not close fully.

These two incidents led to train disruptions with passengers having to disembark before the train could move again.<sup>3</sup> The careless disposal of used chewing gum was also creating cleaning problems in public areas such as cinemas and housing estates.<sup>4</sup>



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The problems created by chewing gum litter had been identified as early as 1983 and brought up by then Foreign Affairs and Culture Minister [S. Dhanabalan](#).<sup>5</sup> In that year, it was reported that the [Housing and Development Board \(HDB\)](#) allocated S\$150,000 annually to clean up the mess created by chewing gum litter.<sup>6</sup>





sex

# SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY





## Leviticus 17:5

**This is to the end that** the people of Israel may bring their **sacrifices** that they sacrifice in the open field, that they may **bring them to the LORD**, to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and sacrifice them as sacrifices of peace **offerings to the LORD.**



Leviticus 17:7

So they shall **no more sacrifice their sacrifices to goat demons**, after whom they whore. This shall be a statute forever for them throughout their generations.





## Leviticus 19:26

You shall not eat any flesh with the blood in it. You shall not interpret omens or tell fortunes.



Acts 15:29

that you abstain from what has been  
**sacrificed to idols, and from blood,** and  
from what has been strangled, and  
from sexual immorality.







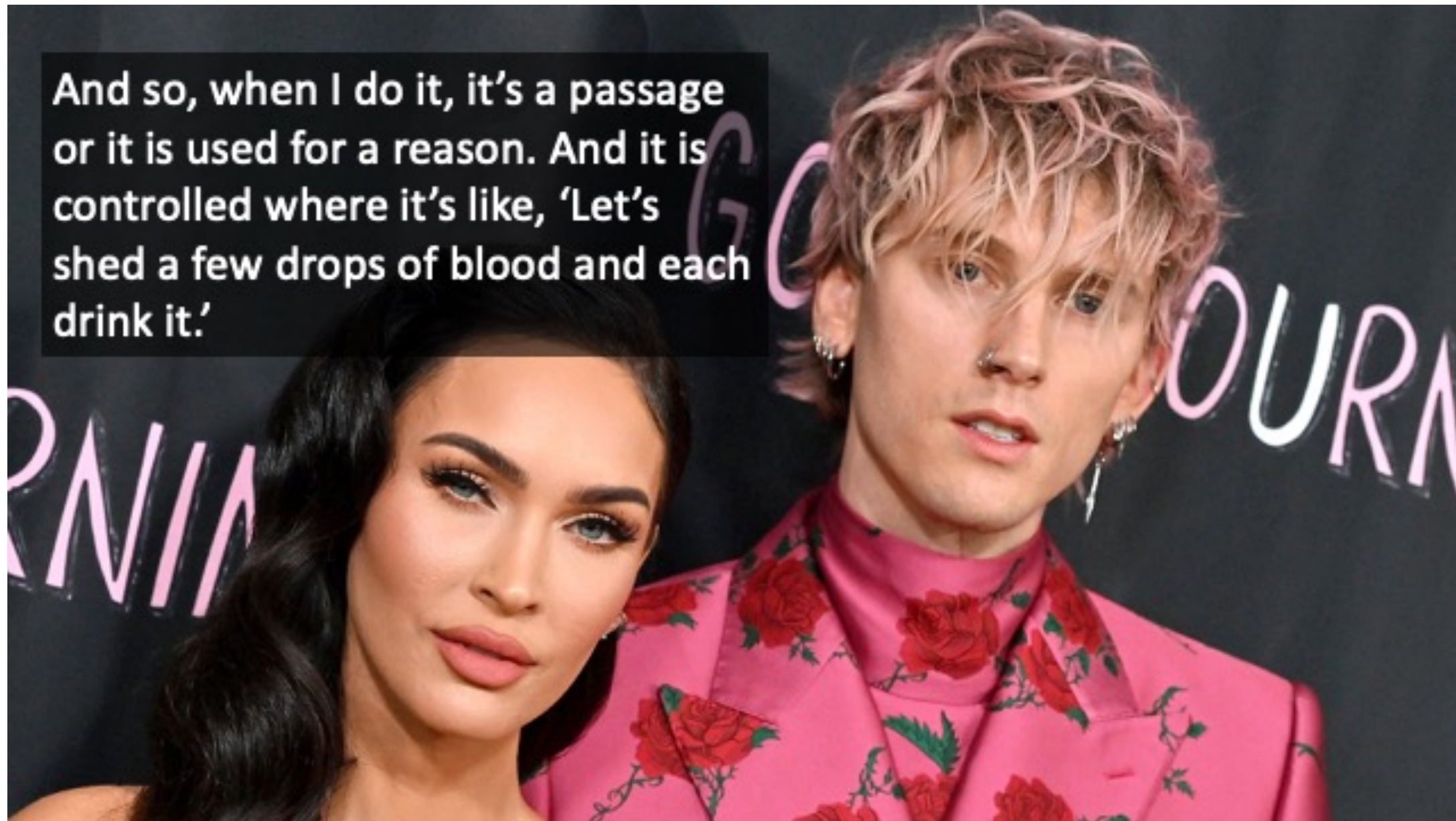
“It’s just a few drops, but yes, we do consume each other’s blood on occasion for ritual purposes only.”



"I'm much more controlled. I read tarot cards and I'm into astrology and I'm doing all these metaphysical practices and meditations. And I do rituals on new moons and full moons and all these things."



And so, when I do it, it's a passage or it is used for a reason. And it is controlled where it's like, 'Let's shed a few drops of blood and each drink it.'



He's much more haphazard and hectic and chaotic, where he's willing to just cut his chest open with broken glass and be like, 'Take my soul,'"

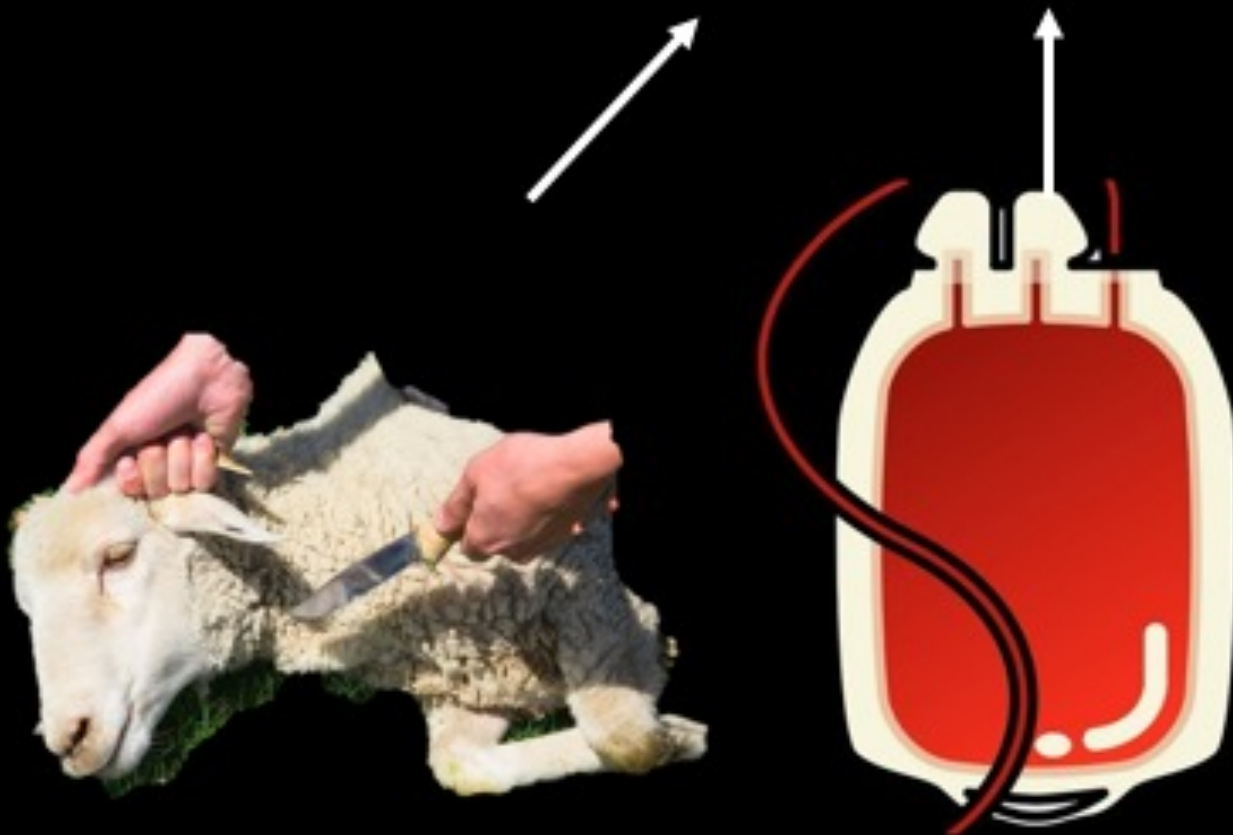




# SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY



# SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY





# SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY





**SEX**

**Leviticus 18:21**

**You shall not give any of your children  
to offer them to Molech, and so  
profane the name of your God:  
I am the LORD.**

Leviticus 19:29–30

Do not profane your daughter by  
making her a prostitute...



SEX



Leviticus 19:29–30

Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute...

You shall keep my Sabbaths and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.



**SEX**

## Leviticus 20

Close association of commands against  
idolatry & immorality



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Deuteronomy 23:17

None of the daughters of Israel shall be a **cult prostitute**, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a **cult prostitute**.



SEX

Numbers 25:1–2

... the people began to **whore with the daughters of Moab**. These invited the people to the **sacrifices of their gods**, and the people **ate and bowed down to their gods**.



SEX

## Revelation 2:14

... Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to **idols and practice sexual immorality.**





SEX

Revelation 2:20

But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to **practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.**



SEX

Hosea 4:13–14

They **sacrifice** on the tops of the mountains and burn **offerings** on the hills, ... your daughters play the **whore**, and your brides commit **adultery**.  
...the men themselves go aside with **prostitutes** and **sacrifice with cult prostitutes**...



## 1 Kings 14:23–24

For they also built for themselves **high places** ... and there were also **male cult prostitutes** in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations



## Paul, Prostitutes, and the Cult of Aphrodite in Corinth

# SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY



# **SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY**



**Acts 15:29**

**that you abstain from what has been  
sacrificed to idols, and from blood,  
and from what has been strangled,  
and from sexual immorality.**



# **SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IDOLATRY**

Leviticus 17,18



**IMPLICATIONS**





# 1. Can we eat blood?











# 1. Can we eat blood?



# **1. Can we eat blood?**

Some will say no, because of Lev 17 & Act 15:29

Leviticus 17:11



**For the life of the flesh is in the blood,**  
and I have given it for you on the altar  
to make atonement for your souls, for  
it is **the blood that makes atonement**  
**by the life.**



## Leviticus 17:12

Therefore I have said to the people of Israel, **No person among you shall eat blood**, neither shall any stranger who sojourns among you eat blood.



Acts 15:29



that you **abstain** from what has been sacrificed to idols, and **from blood**, and **from what has been strangled**, and from sexual immorality.



# **1. Can we eat blood?**

Some will say no, because of Lev 17 & Act 15:29



## **1. Can we eat blood?**

Some will say no, because of Lev 17 & Act 15:29  
Others say yes for no food is unclean now.



# LAMB CHOP OR PORK CHOP?

Leviticus 11

◇ Romans 14:14

I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus  
that nothing is unclean in itself...



## 1 Corinthians 8:8

Food will not commend us to God.  
We are no worse off if we do not eat,  
and no better off if we do.



1 Corinthians 10:26

For “the earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof.”





## 1 Timothy 4:1–4

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...



## 1 Timothy 4:1–4

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...  
who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods



## 1 Timothy 4:1–4

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...

who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

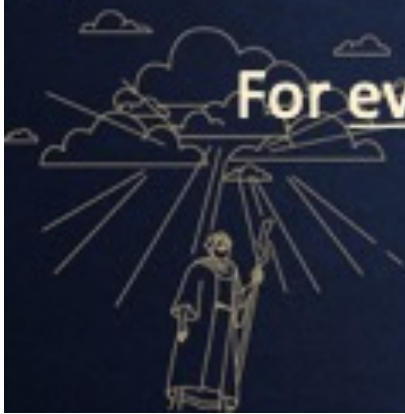


## 1 Timothy 4:1–4

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...

who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving,



## Mark 7:18–19

Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?"  
(Thus he declared all foods clean.)





# 1. Can we eat blood?



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And we see that it is related to idolatry.



## **1. Can we eat blood?**

Some will say no, because of Lev 17 & Act 15:29

Others say yes for no food is unclean now.

And we see that it is related to idolatry.

So consider 2 factors: conscience & stumbling.



**1. Can we eat blood?  
What about medium rare steak?**

**Editors' note:** The original version of this article featured rare steak as a possible example of eating blood today. After publication, we were reliably informed by careful connoisseurs that a rare steak doesn't contain actual blood (which means that it wouldn't fall under the prohibition of [Acts 15:29](#), even if it were a permanent moral requirement). Though the practical and hermeneutical point of the article remains the same, we sincerely apologize for this rare mistake and regret ever placing steak on the table in this discussion.



**2. Notice the tight relationship  
between immorality & idolatry**



## Romans 1:22–23

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for **images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.



## Romans 1:24

Therefore God gave them up in the **lusts** of their hearts  
to **impurity**, to the **dishonoring of their bodies** among  
themselves,



## Romans 1:26–27

For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women **exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature;**





## Romans 1:26–27

and the **men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another**, men committing shameless acts with men...



**2. Notice the tight relationship  
between immorality & idolatry**



## **2. Notice the tight relationship between immorality & idolatry**

**Co-existence**



## **2. Notice the tight relationship between immorality & idolatry**

**Co-existence  
Causality**



**“Yet all sexual sin is, at the end of the day, merely a symptom of something else....”**

*Nick Nowalk*



**“Yet all sexual sin is, at the end of the day, merely a symptom of something else....**

**The persistent diagnosis of Scripture is that our main problem lies in the fact that we are not satisfied in God's beauty and goodness as the center of our existence...**



**Everything is turned upside down—splintered, deformed, and henceforth, death-dealing to our spirituality—once we have culpably alienated ourselves from the only true Source of life and love.**



... all sexual sin...is at root a dark reflection  
of our prior idolatry.





**Our ultimate commitment to secondary creational goods  
(rather than to honoring the Creator) erupts in the  
inevitable direction of the dishonoring of our bodies.”**



**2. Notice the tight relationship  
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**Co-existence**



## **2. Notice the tight relationship between immorality & idolatry**

**Co-existence  
Causality**



## **2. Notice the tight relationship between immorality & idolatry**

**Co-existence  
Causality  
Conquest**



## Romans 13:13–14

Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, **not in sexual immorality and sensuality...**



## Romans 13:13–14

Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, **not in sexual immorality and sensuality...**

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.



**"A soul that turns away from You therefore lapses into sexual immorality when it seeks apart from You what it can never find in pure and serene form except by returning to You."**

**Augustine**





### **3. We need safeguards from idolatry**



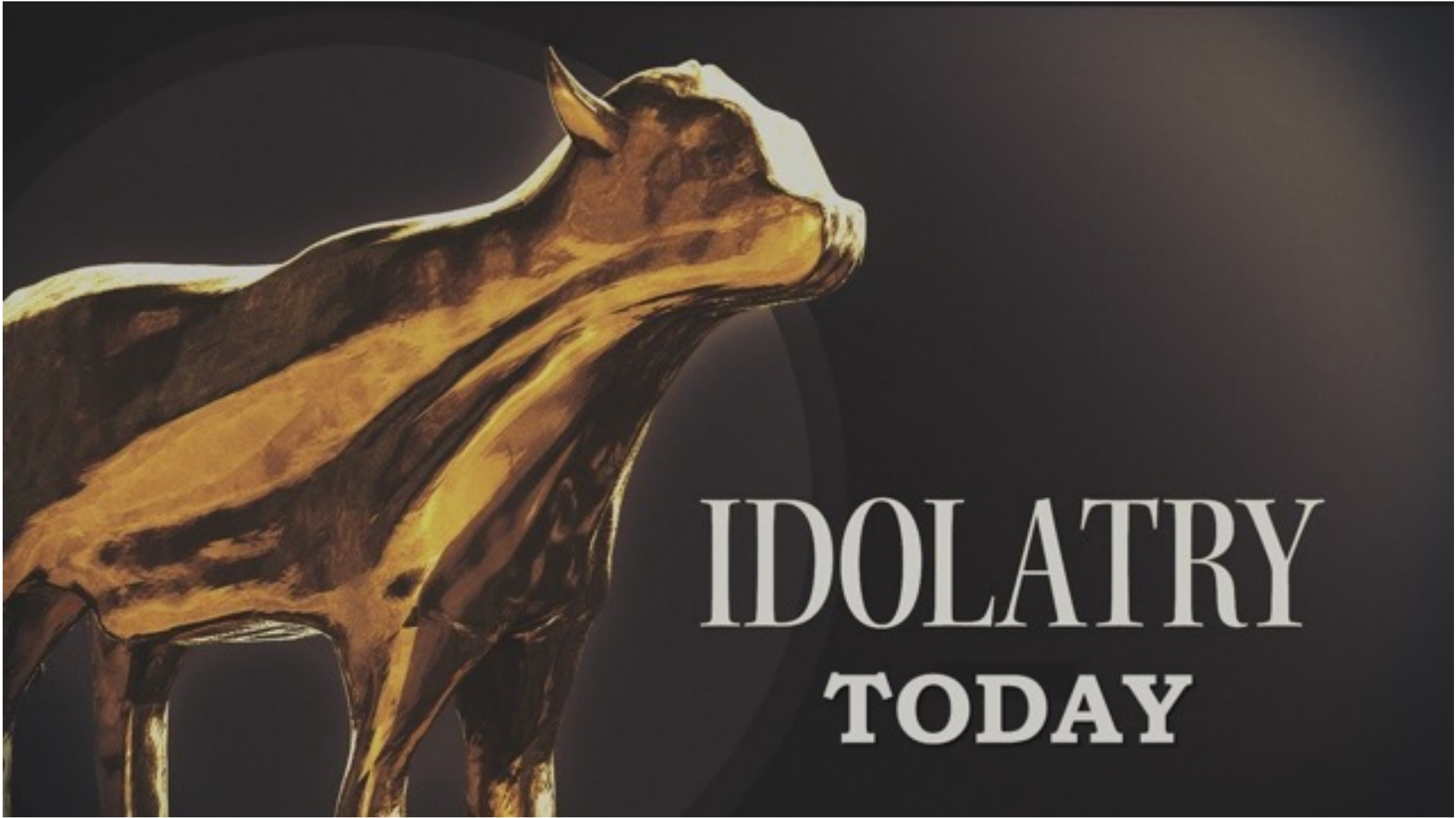
## 1 Corinthians 10:14

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.



## **1 Corinthians 10:21**

**You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.**



**IDOLATRY**  
**TODAY**



## Matthew 6:19–21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...



## Matthew 6:19–21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...  
but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...



## Matthew 6:19–21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...  
but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...  
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



## 1 Timothy 6:10

**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.**





## 1 Timothy 6:11

**But as for you, O man of God, flee these things.  
Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love,  
steadfastness, gentleness.**



## 1 Timothy 6:17–18

**As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**



## 1 Timothy 6:17–18

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share



We love Him, because  
**He first loved us**

1 John 4:19

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