

SERMON: DEDICATED TO GOD IN OUR HEARTS AND OUR HOMES

10-12-25

OPENER:

We begin Sacred Week. A week of Dedication - Devotion and Offerings to the Lord. Be sure and pick up your Sacred Week Devotional Handbook or you can go online.

Starting tomorrow and going through Saturday we are:

- Day One: Consecrating our hearts - rededicate/cleanse/repent
- Day Two and Three: Gather as a Family/Pray/forgive/reconcile/unify and restore the family altar in your homes
- Day Four: Spiritual House Cleansing - remove items from our homes that are dishonoring to the Lord
- Day Five: Prepare an Offering to bring on Sunday
- Day Six: Rejoice in God's Goodness
- Next Sunday: Bring an offering to Sacred Sunday

to dedicate means = to assign, to commit or to give over. If you dedicate a song you've written to a friend, it means the song belongs to them. If you dedicate yourself to a project, it means you give yourself to it. If you dedicate yourself to God it means you give yourself to God. You devote all of yourself. It means you belong to Him.

Dedicated definition: devoted; having a single-minded loyalty; faithful; whole-hearted; constant; persistent. Dedicated means to be wholly devoted to God and not divided in your dedication to Him.

to devote means = To give over all of yourself to God; to whole heartedly give all your time, resources, energy and efforts to the Lord

Main Two Areas we are going to be concentrating on is dedicating our hearts and our homes.

FIRST: DEDICATING OUR HEARTS:

I WANT TO SAY 3 THINGS ABOUT DEDICATING OUR HEARTS:

1. OUR HEART MUST BE DEDICATED FIRST

Proverbs 4:23 (esv) Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

**THE QUALITY OF LIFE YOU WILL HAVE WILL BE BASED UPON THE
CONDITION OF YOUR HEART.
THIS VERSE SAYS YOU WILL DRINK FROM WHATEVER POURS OUT OF
YOUR OWN HEART.
YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE IS NOT BASED ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES
AROUND YOU, BUT THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART WITHIN YOU.**

Matthew 15:17-20 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. 20 These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.”

**HOLINESS DOES NOT BEGIN ON THE OUTSIDE OF US.
THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR DON'T MAKE YOU HOLY.
THE GOOD ACTS YOU DO DON'T MAKE YOU HOLY.
A HEART SURRENDERED TO GOD IS WHAT MAKES YOU HOLY.**

Luke 6:43-45 “For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

**WE LEAD WITH YOUR HEART FIRST.
OUR WORDS AND OUR ACTIONS START THERE FIRST.
A GOOD HEART BRINGS FORTH GOOD ACTIONS.**

**HOLINESS BEGINS INSIDE OF US FIRST.
DEVOTION AND COMMITMENT BEGIN THERE FIRST.**

2. GIVE GOD 100% OF YOUR HEART

Numbers 14:24 But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

Caleb followed God with his whole heart. He held nothing back. He gave God 100%.

ILLUSTRATION:

How many remember as a kid singing that song, “You put your right foot in, your put your right foot out. You do the Hokey Pokey and your turn yourself around. That’s what it’s all about.”

Some of us have “Hokey Pokey faith.”

> I put my kids in. I put my marriage out. That’s what it’s all about.

> I put my talking in. I put my actions out. That’s what it’s all about.

> I put my Sunday mornings in. I put my Friday nights out.

God never wanted half-hearted people. God never wanted just your right foot in.

**GOD HAS ALWAYS ASKED FOR TOTAL SURRENDER.
HE HAS ALWAYS ASKED TO SEEK HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL
YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**

**AND GOD HAS ALWAYS ASKED FOR TOTAL
SURRENDER TODAY.
NOT TOTAL SURRENDER TOMORROW.**

Some of you got your right foot in and you got your right foot out. God wants our whole heart. Nothing hidden, nothing kept from Him. He doesn’t want our heart divided with devotion to other things. He wants our total devotion to Him.

3. ASK GOD TO CLEANSE YOUR HEART

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

NOTE:

Let me make this first statement to crush a cultural ideal that is not Biblical..... It is this: that everyone has a good heart. Everyone has good inside them. This is wrong. It lends to the idea that man has the potential

to be good on his own. That He has righteousness within him without God. This type of thinking goes even further to say that we can be our own god. Also the theology that are children are born with goodness inside them. No, the Bible says all are born into sin. Our hearts are naturally wicked and deceitful without the Lord.

.....Who can know our heart? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

We need the Lord to test and search our heart. As David prayed in.....
Psalm 139:23–24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

We need the Lord to search our inward man and see if there are things that need to be cleaned out; things that need to be gotten rid of so we can have a pure heart for the Lord. So we can have a heart wholly devoted to him. Remember dedicated means wholly devoted. But sometimes we have rooms in our heart that are devoted to other things besides the Lord. Sometimes we have places in our hearts that need to be cleaned out.

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

In this verse is a list of Here is a list of six unpleasant attitudes and actions which are to be put away from us entirely.

“Be put away” = Greek = to make a clean sweep

6 Things to be swept out of our hearts:

- 1) Bitterness = sour speech and sour attitude, a negative and cynical look on life, resentful and refuses to be reconciled
- 2) Wrath = a passionate outrage
- 3) Anger = a brewing, sullen hostility
- 4) Clamor = describes people who raise their voices and shout and scream in argument toward others
- 5) Evil speaking = gossiping; speaking bad behind people's backs

6) Malice = wishing others ill will; wishing that something bad would happen to others

Instead..... we should lead from the heart in three things: 1)kindness
2) tenderheartedness (means to be compassionate)
3) forgiveness

SECOND: DEDICATING OUR HOMES TO THE LORD

Our homes should show our commitment to the Lord.

I WANT TO SAY FOUR THINGS ABOUT DEDICATING OUR HOMES TO THE LORD

1. RESTORE THE LORD'S LEADERSHIP IN YOUR HOME

Our homes must be built upon a spiritual foundation: Christ is the head of the household, and the home is built on His Lordship. This involves worshipping Him above all other loyalties and intentionally incorporating prayer and the Bible into daily life.

2. BUILD A FAMILY ALTAR IN YOUR HOME

Family prayer should be the foundation of any home. Restore the altar in your home.

3. ASK GOD TO HELP YOUR MARRIAGE SHOW CHRIST'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CHURCH

Ephesians 5:28-33 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Marriage points to the mystery of God by acting as a physical illustration of the relationship between Christ and the church. This "mystery," is the plan

of God to reconcile us to himself. It is reflected in the union of marriage, where the husband's sacrificial love and leadership, and the wife's responsive honor and submission, mirror Christ's love for the church and the church's relationship to him.

A christian marriage is a public demonstration of the gospel's power to unite people and reconcile them to God. It shows how God unites what has been separated (in this case, sinful humanity and himself.) The two become one.

4. MAKE YOUR HOME A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH FOR YOUR CHILDREN

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Our homes should reflect Jesus by practicing love and grace and forgiveness and creating a safe environment for our children to grow in faith. This isn't about outward perfection, but about an intentional, daily commitment to making Jesus the center of the household.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

What you do at home in modeling what it means to walk with Christ will have greater, far reaching affect on your children that anything we do here at church to train them. What we do here at church should only reinforce and solidify what you are teaching your children at home.

III. TEARING DOWN IDOLS AND REMOVING DEMONIC OBJECTS FROM OUR HOMES

1. TEAR DOWN THE IDOLS IN YOUR LIFE

Exodus 20:4-6 You shall not make for yourself a carved image—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. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

What is an idol? Idols can be carved things, and they can be heart obsessions. Idols can be carved or graven images of false gods (or demons). They can also be desires of the heart like for money, sex, power, and things like that.

An idol is = anything that we come to rely on for some blessing, or help, or guidance or comfort in the place of a wholehearted reliance on the true and living God.

So you can see that would cover, for example, a rabbit's foot in your pocket, or a picture of a saint hanging on your wall, or a relic from some sacred shrine sitting on your mantle, or the more obvious images taken from Hindu or Buddhist temples, or the golden calf that Aaron made while Moses was on the mountain.

What makes all of these idols is that we are looking away from a wholehearted reliance upon God.

If we come to crave, love, depend upon, and trust for a blessing, > people's praise to enhance our self-exaltation

> or money, or power, or sex, or family,

> or fame

or anything else besides God himself for blessing, help, guidance, and satisfaction, then in essence we are doing what idolatry has always done.

**ANYTHING THAT SUCCESSFULLY COMPETES WITH OUR LOVE FOR GOD
IS AN IDOL.**

AND LOVE IS SHOWN IN DEVOTION.

**DEVOTING YOUR TIME, YOUR MONEY, YOUR AFFECTION, YOUR ENERGY
AND YOUR FOCUS.**

1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

1 John 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

2. REMOVE DEMONIC OBJECTS FROM OUR HOMES

**IF YOU HAVE TO TUCK THINGS AWAY OR HIDE THINGS
WHEN CERTAIN PEOPLE COME TO VISIT,
YOU NEED TO REMOVE SOME THINGS FROM YOUR
HOME AND DEDICATE YOUR HOME TO GOD.**

There are trending things that people keep in their house that's demonic, and they don't know it.

Ephesians 5:11...have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

There are things out there that are dangerous to you and your family. And we need to talk about these things. We need to expose them.

1 Thessalonians 5: 22 says, Abstain from every form of evil.

Now, the first thing you need to do is to ask God, to reveal the things in your house that you need to get rid of, that might be demonic.

We are in spiritual warfare, and that's why you need the Spirit to help you with spiritual warfare. The Holy Spirit knows all truth. And when you pray to Him and ask him for guidance, he will help you. He will tell you when something is not from God. Apart from giving you discernment between what is right and wrong, he also gives you peace. When you don't have peace about something in the spirit, you know, this is not right. If you doubt about something and go ahead with it, it might be sin. If you doubt about something, if you don't have that peace, get rid of it.

SIX DEMONIC THINGS TO GET RID OF:

1. DEMONIC SYMBOLS

Now, this can be on clothes, jewelry, paintings, ornaments, or any other home decorations. They are the signs that they used in Satanism.

- The inverted pentagram
- The all seeing eye
- The Leviathan Cross

2. A FALSE RELIGIOUS OBJECT OR SIGN

- Buddha statues
- Hindu statues
- Native American religion objects
 - ceremonial regalia:
 - headdresses and feathers
 - masks
 - headdresses
 - drums and rattles.
 - symbolic containers:
 - peyote boxes
 - parfleches,
 - items that facilitate communication and ceremony:
 - talking sticks
 - sacred pipes
 - other Native American religion objects:
 - totem poles
 - dream catchers
- African ancestor worship objects:
 - Witch doctor masks
- Norse mythology and others

We can travel to different countries. and experience a lot of different cultures and peoples, but what we forget is these souvenirs sometimes are connected to pagan religions and false gods. These gods are real, but their not really gods. They are demons. When we look back in history, we see

that people worshipped other gods. There was a reason for it, because they experienced supernatural things from demons.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Satan is called the god (little 'g') of this world. He has power and his demons have power.

1 Corinthians 10:14-22 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. 15 I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say. 16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? 17 For we, though many, are one bread and one body; for we all partake of that one bread.

18 Observe Israel after the flesh: Are not those who eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar? 19 What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 22 Or do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than He?

Some objects are devoted to be used in religious ceremonies to false gods. You might say, I just use it as a decoration. Well, you might see it that way, but that doesn't mean that demons are going to see it that way. They're going to see it differently because you are giving them access into your house, into your life, over your family. You've allowed it into your home.

And so why would you, as a true child of God, allow anything evil in your house? If you do, then there's something wrong with your relationship with God, because you're not fully worshipping God as your Lord and Savior, truly, with everything that is in you.

You are not picking up your own cross, and denying yourself and following Jesus, because if you keep those things in the house, it clearly means that you put those things above God's word. It's more important to you.

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord. That is my name. My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

3. OCCULT OR NEW AGE OBJECTS

- tarot cards
- good luck charms
- rabbit's foot
- crystals

As Christians, we don't rely on good luck. That's superstition. That is not from God. We rely on His mercy, grace, blessing. We rely on His will for our lives.

Now, if you receive a good luck charm from a friend or a family member, do not wear it, Especially if it's like rabbit's foot or recently I heard that some people are carrying around crystals as if it's gonna bring them good luck. These things are evil. It's not going to bring you good luck or blessing.

It's actually going to bring you the opposite. You're opening doors for evil. You are giving demons a foothold into your life to influence your life.

4. OBJECTS THAT HELP YOU CONNECT WITH THE SPIRITUAL WORLD OR THE DEAD

Leviticus 19:31 says, "Do not turn to mediums or necromancers. Do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them. I am the Lord, your God. So please hear me today."

- Ouija board
- crystal ball
- tea leaves

Even among Christians, there are some who say, they can read tea leaves, they can read the future. It is not from God. Where is that in the Bible? Divination, seeing what will happen in the future, all these things are evil.

God can also let you know about certain things that might happen as you pray, but that's different. That is God himself talking to you and confirming it in His word and through other believers. But this is something else.

Necromancio is talking to people who are dead also is forbidden. You can't really do that because they are dead. Dead from this world, but they are either in heaven or in hell. They can't hear you, only God can and demons, who can pretend to be dead family members. And that's exactly what is happening.

Some people have beings appear to them as if they are their dead grandmother, grandfather, or people in their family. Those are demons pretending to be humans, Specifically, humans that passed away.

If the Bible says one thing and our culture says another thing, and you follow your culture, then we sin. We need to follow God's Word in everything.

Please do not be offended. Do not get emotional. Just look at the facts and look at scripture. I'm saying this with a lot of love, and we need to speak the truth in love if we truly love each other and want each other to be safe and not going to help.

5. ANY FORM OF WITCHCRAFT

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. 12 For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD,

- Books (specifically Harry Potter books)
- Games
- Entertainment

There is nothing out there in the spiritual world like this mysterious energy that you can tap and use for power. There's only God, His angels, and the fallen angels, and they do have power, and they can give their power to

people, but at a great cost. So it is very important to get rid of everything that's connected with witchcraft.

Today, the entertainment, Hollywood is very evil, with Satan at the top, they will change stories and make it very interesting for you to accept evil.

People today watch movies and series where they have werewolves and vampires and they have witches. And also Harry Potter and people think, "Oh, it is cool," And they do make it look cool with the sound effects, the music, with the special effects.

But it is not cool, it is evil. True, witchcraft is evil. Sorcerers, witches, they get their power from demons in the same way.

Acts 19:17-20 This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18 And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

6. DEMONIC ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES, MUSIC AND MOVIES

The same way celebrities or musicians get their power, their skill to be famous from selling their soul to the devil. I'm not saying everyone does this, but there are a few. They sell their souls for just a little bit of power in this short, temporary world. And then they lose their soul for all eternity.

If the Holy Spirit does not give you peace about something, then get rid of it. You can't always protect your kids and just keep them in a bubble. They will experience things at school, but when they come home from school or their friends, they have you who teaches them the truth of scripture, what they need to look out for. And so, you don't have to throw away everything. But just those things that are not from God. This is going to influence my child or even me in a negative way. Get rid of it. Do not let your kids watch these things. That's created by evil to change their way of thinking from a young age.

You need to look at the kids' programs today, how they weave in everything there. They are influencing the new generation to think that good is evil and evil is good. And that is why people start to think that, why don't people have common knowledge anymore? Common sense?

So, what do you need to do if you find any of these objects or things in your house? Well, do what these people did, renounce it and get rid of it. And then ask God to forgive you that you had this object in your home.

Last thing to get rid of:

- **Halloween decor:
witches, ghosts or spirits the grim reaper, skeletons**