Week #18

When an Idol Makes Three in Your Marriage - The Problem

Imagine this scenario, shared by author Amber Lia:

"My dream was to enjoy a shared life with my husband, one in which he met my needs and I met his. Except, life actually happened.

"He felt the pressure of providing, and that meant long hours at work, and fewer at home. He was doing his best, but that wasn't good enough for me. Romance dwindled and if we actually went on a date, it was because I initiated it. We became strangers living parallel lives under one roof. Bitterness and discontent took root and instead of counting my blessings, all I could see were barriers to my happiness. Anger and loneliness soon permeated my life and blinded me to the potential in our relationship. This loneliness caused me to become aloof and withdrawn. My unhealthy coping mechanism caused me to shut down. I knew that I was unhappy, and I thought it was due to my husband."

However, as quoted by Martha Pearce in *The Excellent Wife: A Biblical Perspective:* "It is not wrong to desire intimacy with her husband, unless she desires it so intensely that she sins and cannot have it. Then, her desire becomes idolatrous. In those cases, even if her husband attempts to be more open with her, she is likely to be disappointed, no matter how hard he tries. He may give up trying, and then her idolatrous desire for intimacy becomes even more intense."

Colossians 3:5 speaks strongly of idolatry. No matter your idol, it must be put to death. Today's example, for instance, might appear as the intense desire for a better marriage. Yet, if we desire anything before God, we make it into an idol. This often manifests itself as the need to control and change a spouse. However, since the only person we can actually change is ourselves - and not our spouse - this form of idolatry is especially pernicious and destructive to a marriage.

And so, the idol of marital intimacy can and often does ruin marriages.

Next week - When an Idol Makes Three in Your Marriage - The Solution