

**"AMERICAN IDOLS" I. ENTERTAINMENT**  
**by Pastor Richard H. Jones**

**A. SOME OF THE SIMPLE REASONS WHY ENTERTAINMENT HAS BECOME AN AMERICAN IDOL.**

1. Entertainment has become an American idol because it has been given pre-eminence in people's lives and it oftentimes comes before the Lord's service. Note I Jn. 2:15, 16 ; Col.1:15.

When some people ought to be in the Lord's house serving Him they are sitting in front of a computer screen or a TV set playing games or they are at a ball game or race track instead.

2. Entertainment has become an American idol because people are willing to pay any price to be entertained. They will attend ball games, theaters, races, concerts and the like and will pay huge prices in order to be entertained. Stadiums are filled on Sundays with people who don't know the Lord or with saved people who are living a carnal life.
3. Entertainment has become an American idol because most people in this world are unsaved and follow after the desires of the flesh and have no desire for spiritual things. Notice what the Bible says in Roman 8: 8; Gal. 5:16.  
Truly America has become an entertainment - oriented society.

**B. SOME OF THE SINFUL RAMIFICATIONS OF SERVING THIS AMERICAN IDOL.**

1. Notice most entertainments in themselves are not wrong, but they become wrong when they are preferred before the Lord's service. The person who sits home to watch a TV program or takes off to some concert on Sunday night at church time has made an idol out of that entertainment because he has put it before the Lord.
2. Entertainments can cause us to become unfaithful stewards in God's service. This is the thing that now claims the time and affection of many who used to serve the Lord faithfully. They are now "into" whatever entertains me and "out of" the Lord's service.
3. Entertainments can become addictive and require money that some people can't afford to spend. It is not uncommon today for a couple, who are into sports programs, to have a \$50 to \$100.00 monthly TV bill because they have hit the pay per-view button too many times to catch a certain game. Young couples need to pay their bills and establish a good credit record not be buying entertainments they can't afford. But for some it's an addiction they can't shake.

I once knew a couple with several children who went bankrupt and lost their home because they couldn't pay their bills. One of the factors that contributed to their dilemma was the high cost of entertainments which they could not discipline themselves to live without.

4. Entertainments can open the door to all kinds of temptations and problems. Some folks started out watching TV and refused to listen to profanity but, little by little, they have given in to shameful language and movies which are demoralizing. Some folks started out using their

computers as an information and learning tool but they were lured into chat rooms and this has led to some being victimized by sexual predators and many have gotten involved in extra-marital affairs which destroyed their families.

### **C. SOME OF THE SHAMEFUL RESULTS OF SERVING THIS AMERICAN IDOL.**

1. Making an idol out of entertainment has led many to become unfaithful in the Lord's service. This not only includes those who go to the races or ballgames on Sunday mornings or nights it includes also those running around doing religious concerts and dragging others out of church.
2. Making an idol out of entertainment has gotten some into financial straits. They have spent their monies at the concerts and then there's no money to pay the bills.
3. Making an idol out of entertainments has simply demoralized many who used to have some Godly standards.
4. Making an idol out of entertainment has robbed many of the wonderful opportunities to serve the Lord.
5. Making an idol out of entertainment has become an addiction with many. They can't seem to break the hold that some things have gotten upon their lives.

The truth be told, entertainment has become an American idol for multitudes. While some may try to justify their actions with all kinds of excuses, when a person misses church services to watch the super-bowl or to attend a race or some other entertaining event he has adopted an "American idol" which he needs to break.

Consider the lyrics of the song "Nothing Between" and how far removed some people are from what they express:

"Nothing between my soul and the Saviour, naught of this world's delusive dream:  
I have renounced all sinful pleasure, Jesus is mine, there's nothing between.

Nothing between like worldly pleasure; habits of life, though harmless they seem,  
must not my heart from Him ever sever, He is my all, there's nothing between."

- C.A. Tindley