

## SummerSalon14 – “Unique American Idol”

“American Idol” is the section of **Corrie’s Theological Library** housing resources that demonstrate a *unique* idolatry —an idolatry that could have developed *nowhere else* and at *no other time* —*except* in America —*in* her late history. Prophets who warn against any idol worship were always ignored, maligned, resisted, and most eventually killed. This warning is offered in that tradition.

Authors Herbert Schlossberg and Paul Shirk warn against the western church’s deepening fall into every form of tangible and intangible idol worship. Their books, ***Idols for Destruction*** and ***Come Out of Her, My People***, provide those details. It is not true that idolatry is tied only to constructing physical idols. The forms idolatry takes varies and morphs over time. Practiced idolatry in America is no longer recognized for the biblical error it is —except by those who spiritually discern .

Aaron erred in leading the people to commit idolatry in the wilderness, appealing to lusts of the eye and the flesh. America’s modern day ‘golden calf’ is much more sophisticated. This idol attracts reverence by appealing to the pride of life. Even sincere and well meaning persons practice this idolatry, often unwittingly bowing to social pressure to mix nationalism, patriotism, and political activism with the gospel of Christ. (Incorrect application of Romans 13 accounts for much of this.) Paul admonishes that we are to avoid entanglement with the world, not embrace the world.

See the posted “Calvinist Design for Freedom.pdf” This is the concocted idea of Calvinist, Mervyn Davies. A fascinating diagram, this diamond expresses an idol.

Increasingly, since 2001, the line between “American” and “Christian” is all but erased — the words are considered *interchangeable*. But how can this be?

“American” is *earthly, temporary, and carnal*. “Christian” is *heavenly, eternal, and spiritual*. This mixing of what cannot be mixed (and causing pollution) is often traceable to a believer leaving their first love —rather than daily:

dying to self

following Christ alone

recognizing alien status in this foreign land

longing for heavenly places

forsaking idolatrous allegiances and adulteries.

*American Idol theology* does not represent the gospel and its unpolluted tributaries. It is a false gospel that leads to false practice of faith. The pursuit of political, social, and economic freedom and liberty is not part *or* parcel of the grace gospel. It is an idol *competing with* the gospel. *To be saved now and in eternity is to be freed from the spiritual penalty of sin*. “He who the Son sets free is free indeed” (John 8:36) from the great Pauline declaration of freedom that begins with “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (v. 1).

The Bible, by itself, reveals none of the false pictures painted by American Idol theology. Additions *to* the gospel and *to* God’s doxologic program of covenants and dispensations have to be added in order for American Idol theology to stand on its own. Covenant theology —thoroughly unbiblical —is the basis of much of Reform theology. While Reform and Covenant Theology may *appear* to be sleeping in different beds —upon close inspection it is clear —they are

*bedfellows*. The scheme of 2, 3 or even 4 covenants described by Covenant Theology is not biblical. These are not the same eight (8) covenants spoken of earlier. The scheme of Covenant Theologies' covenants cannot be found in the Bible. Extra-biblical doctrine holds them up.

God does not save countries in this dispensation. He saves individuals who are added, one by one, to the body of Christ. "All Israel will be saved" is true. This text means Jews surviving Jacob's Trouble will —collectively— recognize the Messiah as the One they rejected. But at its worst, American Idol theology robs Israel of her future redemption and restoration. (See the paper on progressive dispensationalism.)

Please see the chart entitled "People Groups.pdf." This depicts the confusion of American idol theology. Daily we hear preachers and teachers talk about *family, church, and country* —as if these are the groups God addresses in His Scriptures. But this is an family, church, and country is an incorrect matrix. *The Bible is not written from or for these three perspectives*. In the chart, erroneous people group matrix inclusion of the church *is* correct, but not as this matrix defines the church in the OT. In the accurate people group matrix all peoples of all times are included.

This is difficult for many to understand, but *God's revelation addresses unsaved Jews, unsaved Gentiles, and saved Jews and Gentiles in His church* —not first family, then church, then country. Saved Jews and Gentiles is *Paul's One New Man*. Paul was charged directly by Christ with bringing that teaching to all peoples.

American Idol theology is nearly impossible to confront if one insists that *uninspired*, manmade documents and *post*-biblical church history supplement divine revelation. This is adding to the God's Word, which is forbidden.

It is my prayer that readers will study to show themselves approved —forsaking American Idol theology.