

Overcoming the pseudo god of conformity: teachings from Ephesians

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Abstract

The church in Ephesus was established around a stronghold of people who worshipped the goddess Diana at about 60 A.D. Ephesus was a city that housed mystical professions that thrived on the art of superstition (Ac 19:35). Christians were faced with an idolatrous culture, and had to develop their strength in not succumbing to this kind of “normalcy”. Conformity to Christ contrasts with conformity to the world and Christianity faces many forms of onslaughts. Believers are continually barraged with varying vices which Apostle Paul tags as sexual immorality, impurity and greed. A state of sin is a state of conformity to the world. The apostle Paul further cautions Christians to be watchful that no one deceives them. He sternly counsels against obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which was fast becoming the norm of the day. Paul brands such people as idolaters (Eph 5:3-7). The Apostle Paul speaks of how Christians should behave by ‘taking off and putting on’. We are called to be imitators of God following His footsteps and living life that is clearly Godly. However, this has not prevented dubious conduct to sneak into the church undetected. This article explores how a masked version of Old Testament idol worship is gradually mesmerizing the modern day church.