

ANSWERS IN ACTION

I Corinthians 8:4-6

Introduction:

- A. If you were born in the Aztec tribe of the 1500's
 - 1. Would you have worshipped their gods?
 - 2. Would you have practiced their savage ways?
- B. Your actions are a reflection of your b_____. Today's lesson poses three questions. How do answer these questions in your actions?

Are There Living Idols? (4)

- A. The Corinthian Christians came out of a p_____ background.
 - 1. They had practiced worshipping i_____
 - 2. After becoming Christians, some of them acted as though idols had supernatural p_____.
- B. Paul gives a truth about idols in verse 4
 - 1. Translations vary slightly
 - a. NAS – *there is no such thing as an idol in the world*
 - b. KJV & NIV – *we know that an idol is nothing in the world*
 - c. ESV – *we know that an idol has no real existence.*
 - 2. The idea is that the idol is not a real entity and so hold no p_____.
- C. Idols include anything that you give power to by your words or a_____.
 - 1. Owning a statue of the virgin Mary for p_____ power.
 - 2. Wearing a cross for p_____.
 - 3. Knocking on w_____ to avoid bad luck.
 - 4. Wearing c_____ for good luck.

Are There Many Gods? (5)

- A. Some of the gods in Greek mythology:
 - 1. Zeus – l_____ attributed to him.
 - 2. Hermes – the god of c_____.
 - 3. Atlas – the god who held the w_____ in place.
- B. The “if” clause in verse 5
 - 1. Assumes the “if” clause to be t_____ even though it may not be. *Let's assume that these so-called gods in heaven or earth really do exist.*
 - 2. Is interrupted by a parenthetical thought that is true
 - a. There really are many gods and lords
 - 1) If Paul would have just wrote, *there really are many gods*, he would have contradicted verse 4.

- 2) Paul adds the word, *lords*, to address a second definition of gods, which simply means r_____.
 - b. The word, “and” in the Greek is often used to redefine something (Strong’s #2532) – *that is to say, there are many gods in the sense of rulers* – see Jn 10:34.
- C. Just because there are many rulers, they do not have to be y_____ ruler.
1. Satan is called the god of this w_____ (2 Cor 4:4)
 - a. Jn 17:14 – Christians are not of this world
 - b. The world does not refer to this planet but to the world of un_____ (Eph 2:2)
 2. Satan is a r_____ god in the sense of a ruler, and so are d_____ (see 1 Cor 10:19,20)
 3. How do your actions answer the question, *are there many gods?*

Who is Truly God and Lord? (6)

- A. For the Christian there is only _____ God and _____ Lord.
1. The one God is the Father who created all things. Christians are to e_____ for Him (that is, in relationship to Him as our God)
 2. The one Lord is Jesus Christ, _____ whom God created all things. Christians exist _____ Him.
 3. Paul is connecting the one God and one Lord together so intimately to show that they)are one un_____ being.
 4. Paul calls the one Lord, *Jesus Christ, by whom are all things*
- B. The Godhead
1. J_____ is called God (Jn 1:1, 18; Titus 2:13)
 2. The F_____ is called Lord (Lk 10:21)
 3. The Holy S_____ is called both Lord and God (2 Cor 3:17; Acts 5:3,4).
 4. Other scriptures to consider
 - a. Matt 3:17 show that the “three” are d _____
 - b. Col 2:9 shows that Jesus is f_____ God, not part God.
- C. How do your actions answer the question: Who is truly God and Lord?

We know in our minds that an idol is not a living being. We also know that there is only one real God. But let’s assume that these so-called gods exist (now there are gods who exist in the sense of rulers). However, for us there is only one God. He is the Father from whom all things derive their existence. We exist for Him. And for us there is only one Lord. He is Jesus Christ through whom all things were given existence. We exist through Him.