

Via Las Vegas

What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.....

1. Las Vegas represents idols to the extreme.

Americans watch TV 250 billion hours a year.
(at \$5.00 per hour is \$1.25 trillion per year.)

Average child watches 1,680 minutes per week,
Parents spend 3.5 minutes per week in meaningful conversation.

2. We substitute thrill for joy.

The common denominator of all Extreme Sports is a thrill-seeking experience culminating in the adrenaline rush.

Or we substitute another's thrill via watching or video play.

3. Idols cannot satisfy

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? —Isaiah 55:2

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. —Psalm 96:5

Hebrew word for idol is אֱלִיל 'eliyl el-eel'
Idol comes from the root for no, not, or nothing.

A stronger Hebrew negative adverb is לוֹ lo' or לוֹ low'

Eight of the Ten Commandments begin with לוֹ

"We were made for Thee and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

—Augustine

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."

— John 4:13-14

Vain, empty things of this world will not bring us rest.

Jesus is rest, joy, and peace.

4. Idols lead to shame.

All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols— worship him, all you gods!

—Psalm 97:7

5. Idols hinder passionate love for God.

Willow Creek's Reveal study indicates that 16% of Christians are stalled in their spiritual journey due to American Idols.

6. Joyous Freedom is free.

Come, all you who are thirsty ... buy wine and milk without money and without cost ... and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

—Isaiah 55:1-2

Challenge: We receive joy and freedom through repentance and forgiveness

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." —Isaiah 6:6-7