



Christian Questions

Think about the Bible like you never have before

Dear Luke,

You wanted to know that since God said not to create idols, is it a sin to have crucifixes and statues of Saint Michael and Mary.

To the Christian, anything is an idol that usurps the place of God in the heart, whether it be a person, a system, a project, wealth, a material object, a statue or image, etc. Anything - even a pastime - which is loved more than God or Christ can be considered an idol.

The definition of idolatry according to Webster, is “the worship of idols or excessive devotion to, or reverence for some person or thing.” An idol is anything that replaces the one, true God.

Although a crucifix is not an idol, the statues of Michael and Mary can become idols if undue attention and reverence are paid to them. In light of the scriptural admonitions in the Old Testament to pray to God alone (Exodus 20:3-5; Deuteronomy 5:7-8) and in the New Testament to pray to God through his Son Jesus (John 14:6, 13-14; Ephesians 3:12; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1), we feel it is definitely wrong for a Christian to reverence a statue or, for that matter, even to pray to the saints in heaven. Praying to anyone other than God and his Son is contrary to what the Scriptures teach us and is, indeed, a form of idolatry, and therefore a sin. Is it any wonder the Apostle admonishes, “Keep away from anything that might take God’s place in your heart” (1 John 5:21)?

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for our weekly newsletter to receive CQ Rewind at ChristianQuestions.com. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

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Christian Questions

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