

American Idols

LCDR R. C. Richards

Command Chaplain

A Marine has been enjoying some popularity lately for his singing and performing skills. He has been a contestant on a television show where people compete for the chance to advance in the competition with other contestant in hopes of becoming “American Idols.” The show has selected one winner and began the new season showing some of the hopefuls trying out. Some were very good; others were noteworthy because they were so bad.

In our culture, we have quite a number of people who have been given the title of “idol” for one reason or another. The choice of words is somewhat interesting to me. I have long known an idol to be a god set up for worship. Generally speaking, such gods are man made. I always wondered why any person would worship any god that could be made and destroyed.

The most interesting thing about this term, however, was found when I actually looked the word “idol” up in the dictionary. Webster defines idol as “an image regarded as an object of worship; a false god. A person or thing blindly or excessively adored. Something visible, but lacking substance.” I was familiar with the first definitions, but had never given much thought to the last one.

If you think about it, that is exactly the case with the TV show. We are selecting someone for adoration based upon their physical appearance, singing ability and showmanship. We are giving no consideration to their character, intelligence or personality. These people may be wonderful people, but we are not given any look into that area of their lives.

One reason many performer in the last few years have come under such criticism is because they have become very popular, yet they have demonstrated that they are lacking character and high qualities of value. They have been involved in acts of violent crime and advocate hatred and violence in their recordings and performances. Is this the teaching and conduct appropriate to someone who has come to be worshipped and adored by their following. It seems they have become exactly what they profess to be – idols who are visible, but lacking substance.

If you want to follow someone who will lead you into a better life and promote positive qualities, I have someone you should meet. However, He is no idol. In fact, He is the exact opposite of an idol. He is not visible, but certainly is not lacking substance. He is the True God. Ask me to introduce you to Him soon. You will find that He is worthy of your adoration and worship.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in Church on Sunday.