

the building program at his church, and now he realizes that he can't keep up his RV payments and his promise to the Lord. And since he has to make the RV payments, he has to cut back drastically on his giving to the building program. Clyde's RV begins to assume greater and greater importance in his life. He takes his family and buddies on frequent trips on weekends, during which there really isn't enough time to worship at an evangelical church (after all, the weekend is very short). Gradually Clyde and his family begin to drift away from the things of the Lord, and his RV becomes his idol. And he doesn't even realize it!

One more illustration. Since high school Diane has struggled with a weight problem. She has gone on every conceivable kind of diet, with and without professional support groups. She dreams of looking like Cheryl Tiegs or Christie Brinkley, and of being the perfect weight and shape. She has even experimented briefly with bulimia. Everything else is of secondary importance! A perfect body is her ideal and her idol, and she is willing to do almost anything to achieve her goal and appease her idol. When she became a Christian, she realized that her first and ultimate devotion should be to Christ, and that she should focus her energy and life on Him and His will. But lately she has been trying to serve two masters – the Lord and a perfect body – and she concentrates on a perfect body and gives little or no thought to the kinds of things she should be emphasizing to know and please God more fully and to become more Christlike. Without being aware of it, Diane is gradually departing from the living God and replacing Him with an idol of her own making, one with which she can feel more satisfied. But