

Name _____

Choosing a Path to Life

The First Commandment directs us to honor God above all things. Why? We do this because honoring God is the path to true happiness and love.

In this exercise, you will imagine two different paths in life. The first path is the one taken by someone who makes union with God the primary focus of their life. The second path is the one taken by someone who makes a person or thing other than God the primary focus of their life.

Below you will find reflection spaces for each of the two life paths. For each path, brainstorm a list of values that would direct someone's choices if they were to follow this path. Write those values in the first box. Then brainstorm the effects these values would have on that person's relationships with God, others, and self. Write those in the second box.

Path A: Union with God

Values:

Effects:



Path B: Union with _____

On the line above, write the name of someone or something that may replace God as a person's goal in life, something that may be considered an idol.

Values:

Effects:

Personal Essay

On a separate sheet of paper, write a short essay answering the following questions:

- How might making God the center of your life ultimately lead to love and happiness?
- How would making God the center of your life affect your moral choices? Give a couple of concrete examples.
- Keeping in mind your particular gifts, interests, and other life goals, what moral choices do you make every day to *keep God the center of your life*?

In writing your essay, consider these points:

- God desires your greatest good.
- The Christian community offers many ways to strengthen this pursuit.

