

Getting to the Heart

#1 Why Should I be Concerned about the Idols of My Heart?

Ezekiel 14:1-8

David Powlison says “Idolatry is by far the most frequently discussed problem in the Scriptures... the relevance of massive chunks of Scripture hangs on our understanding of idolatry.”

In the OT –

In the NT –

I. Your Idols are Rooted in Your _____

II. _____ are the One that Put Them There

An idol = _____ or _____ that begins to _____
our _____ and **Minds** and **Affections** more than God. It’s living on _____.
It’s exchanging the one true living God for a _____.

John Calvin “The heart is a factory of idols.”

James 1:14 “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.”

“The Bible exposes us for who we really are. Scripture never allows us to believe in a neutral, undirected, or unmotivated humanity. It requires us to admit that behind everything we do or say, we are pursuing *something*—some hope or dream or thing that we refuse to live without. There are things we value so much that we will willingly sacrifice other good things to get them. We will debase our humanity in order to deify the creation. The very things we seek to possess begin to possess us. We live for shadow glories and forget the only Glory that is worth living for. In its masterful portraiture of humanity, the Bible requires us to make one painfully humbling admission—the one confession we work so hard to avoid: *that our deepest, most pervasive, and most abiding problem is us!* If you can humbly make this admission, your life will never be the same.” ***Lost in the Middle***, Paul David Tripp, page 19

Getting to the Heart ~ Pastor Brad Bigney – Grace Fellowship Church

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III. Your Idols Keep You from _____ and _____ Sin

John Piper “Sin is what we do when we’re not satisfied in God.”

Sin is also what we do when we’re chasing after something other than God – namely one of our idols.

Proverbs 4:23 “Guard your heart with all diligence, for out of it flows the issues of life.”

- For some it might be **Money**. When you’re afraid – you look to the idol of money to give you security.
- For some it might be **Pleasure**... so you start clinging to the idols of sex (through immoral relationships or pornography [false intimacy]...)
- For others it might be **Food**

“When midmorning comes and you want food so badly that the thought of lunch becomes as sweet as a summer vacation, then suddenly you realize, ‘Oh, I forgot, I made a commitment. I can’t have that pleasure. I’m fasting for lunch too.’ Then what are you going to do with all that unhappiness inside? Formerly, you blocked it out with the hope of a tasty lunch. The hope of food gave you the good feelings to balance out the bad feelings. But now the balance is off. You must find another way to deal with it.” *A Hunger for God*, p. 20

- It might be **Sleep**... or **Shopping**... or **Entertainment**.
- It might be the idol and false refuge of **Image** – so you start working out excessively at the gym... dying your hair... buying clothes that were designed for people half your age...

Romans 1:21-23, 25 “Because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man... they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator...”

And anything you exchange for God is a _____... because it _____ more than it can deliver.

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- **Marriage** – gift of God – but don't put all your eggs in that basket and try to get all your love and affection and security from that relationship.
- **Children** – gift of God – but don't put all your eggs in that basket – don't pour your life into them and live for them and build your whole world around them

Paul Tripp “Children are a _____ but they make terrible _____.”

- **Ministry** – is a gift of God – but don't put all your trust and hope in ministry. Put your trust in God.

2 Corinthians 4:1 “Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart... **v. 7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels; that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”

IV. Your Idols Run in _____

Eugene Peterson's *The Message*, paraphrases Ezek. 14:4 as “I, God, will step in and personally answer them as they come dragging along their mob of idols.”

James 4:3 “You ask and do not receive because you ask with wrong motives that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.”

V. Your Idols Cut You Off from _____

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord, that is My name, and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to graven images.”

Psalms 139:23 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive ways in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”