

Removing the Shrines of Our Heart

Matthew 22:37 (NLT)
*Jesus replied, “ ‘You
must love the LORD your
God with all your heart,
all your soul, and all
your mind.’*



WHY THIS LESSON?

1. It's not working. We do not see what the Bible promises, so we explain away the Word of God. Situational Christianity says...
 - a. God does not require this any longer
 - b. The Word is not relevant for today...God changes because we do
2. Prayers are not getting results as promised in Scripture.
 - a. "any two agree" MT 18:19
 - b. "speak to the mountain" Mark 11:23-24
3. The organized *church* is anemic and does not withhold the influences of hell, but rather has embraced the doctrines of hell in many cases
 - a. Mt. 16:18

THE WAR WITHIN...THE BATTLEGROUND OF THE ~~MIND~~...THE HEART

- **Proverbs 4:23 (ESV)** —Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
- **Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)** —Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.
- **Proverbs 4:23 (TPT)** So above all, guard the affections of your heart, for they affect all that you are. Pay attention to the welfare of your innermost being, for from there flows the wellspring of life.

The Great Price of Solomon's Idols

- **1 Kings 11:5–11 (NLT)** — **5** Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. **6** In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight; he refused to follow the LORD completely, as his father, David, had done. **7** On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. **8** Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods. **9** The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. **10** He had warned Solomon specifically about worshiping other gods, but Solomon did not listen to the LORD's command. **11** So now the LORD said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants."

- **2 Chronicles 20:32–33 (NLT)** — **32** Jehoshaphat was a good king, following the ways of his father, Asa. He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight. **33** During his reign, **however, he failed to remove all the pagan shrines**, and the people never fully committed themselves to follow the God of their ancestors.
- **2 Kings 15:1–5 (NLT)** — **1** Uzziah son of Amaziah began to rule over Judah in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of King Jeroboam II of Israel. **2** He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem. **3** He did what was pleasing in the LORD's sight, just as his father, Amaziah, had done. **4** **But he did not destroy the pagan shrines**, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there. **5** The LORD struck the king with leprosy, which lasted until the day he died. He lived in isolation in a separate house

- **2 Kings 15:34–35 (NLT)** — **34** Jotham did what was pleasing in the LORD’s sight. He did everything his father, Uzziah, had done. **35** But he did not destroy the pagan shrines, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there. He rebuilt the upper gate of the Temple of the LORD.
- **2 Kings 12:1–3 (NLT)** — **1** Joash began to rule over Judah in the seventh year of King Jehu’s reign in Israel. He reigned in Jerusalem forty years. ...**2** All his life Joash did what was pleasing in the LORD’s sight because Jehoiada the priest instructed him. **3** Yet even so, he did not destroy the pagan shrines, and the people still offered sacrifices and burned incense there.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO “DO THE THINGS” THAT PLEASE GOD, BUT NOT PLEASE GOD?

THE LAW OF THE HEART...TOTAL DEVOTION TO GOD

- **Matthew 7:21–23 (NLT)** — **21** “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. **22** On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ **23** But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’
- **Matthew 22:36–38 (NLT)** — **36** “Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” **37** Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment.

DEFINING “GODS” OF THE HEART

1. A god is what we pursue, spend our time on, chase after
2. A god is anything that we “think” the most about
3. A god is what controls our time, money and energy
4. A god is what we run to in times of stress, distress, weariness
5. A god always has a spiritual force behind it, driving us for more
6. A god causes us to run to it instead of Yahweh God.
 - **Leviticus 19:4 (NLT)** —“Do not put your trust in idols or make metal images of gods for yourselves. I am the LORD your God.
 - **Isaiah 2:8 (NLT)** —Their land is full of idols; the people worship things they have made with their own hands.

HEART ATTACKS...FALSE GODS OF THE HEART

1. gods of **Pleasure**: food, sex, entertainment (Hollywood, Sports), fantasy, seduction, emotion, comfort,
2. gods of **Power**: achievement, money, success, pride, influential people,
3. gods of **Purpose**: lost identity, fame, notoriety, spiritual gifts, church

HOW DO I KNOW?

1. Ask yourself, how much time, resources, thought and energy do I give to any of these compared to God?
2. Does these bring glory to God or SELF? Is it furthering the kingdom of God?
3. Am I in rebellion to what the Word of God says? (1 Sam. 15:23)

DESTROYING THE IDOLS

1. Pray and ask God to reveal anything more important that He is in your life.
 - a. These idols may have begun innocently
2. Repent of allowing these things to have taken control of your heart and life
3. Renounce any demonization that has been allowed into your life through these idolatrous activities. Take away the authority given to the devil.
4. Remove these idols from your life (*Joshua 24:23...destroy the idols and return to the Lord*)
5. Received the freedom of God through Christ and make a declaration to serve only God