

# Cardiology

Study of the heart

Jeremiah 17:1-4



A red sign with a white arrow pointing left. The sign is mounted on a metal post in a grassy area. In the background, there is a paved road and a body of water.

PROTECT THIS HEART  
SCREENING

SIMON'S Heart

# Idols and false gods





**Ra**

# Anubis



**Baal**



# Asherah



# Molech





*Expedition Bible*





*Expedition Bible*

FIG. 18.—SACRIFICED INFANT BURIED IN A JAR


# What does it mean to glorify God?

“To glorify God is to extol His attributes, praise His works, trust His name, and obey His Word. He is holy, faithful, merciful, gracious, loving, majestic, sovereign, powerful, and omniscient — and that’s just for starters.”

GotQuestions.org




**What is an idol?**



# 1. An idol is sinful.

*Idol worship never glorifies God.  
It is always sinful and never blessed.*



## 2. Idols come from hard hearts and make them harder.

*We worship idols because we have hard hearts.  
Our idols harden our hearts to God even more.*

A hand holding a globe with vines and leaves. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, holding a small globe of the Earth. The globe is wrapped in green vines and leaves, with some leaves hanging down. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a tree on the left and a bright sky.


### **3. Idols reside in our hearts.**

*Our idols blind us and are all we see and want.  
They become our focus instead of pleasing God.*

**...these men have taken their idols into  
their hearts, and set the stumbling block  
of their iniquity before their faces.**

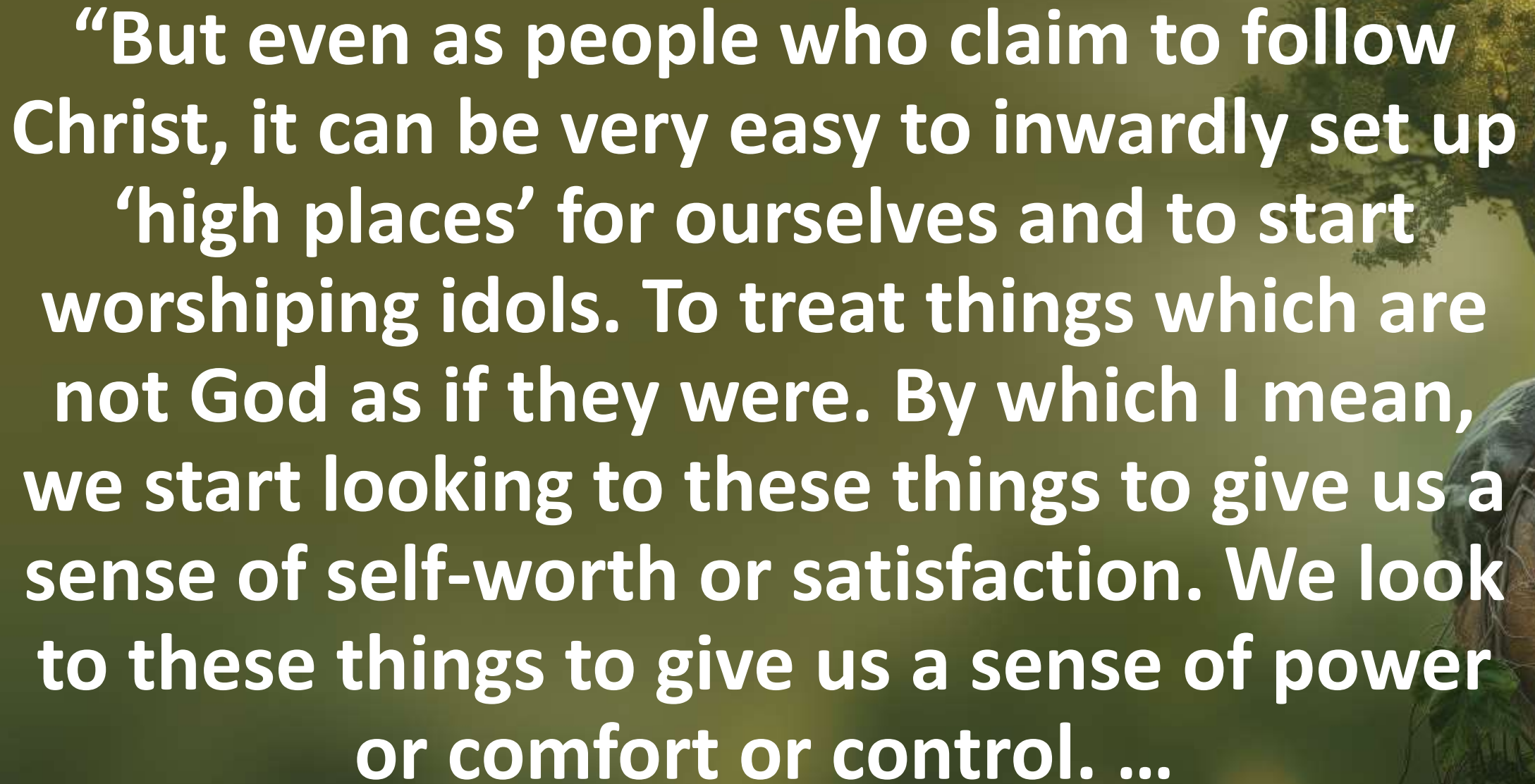
**Ezekiel 14:3**



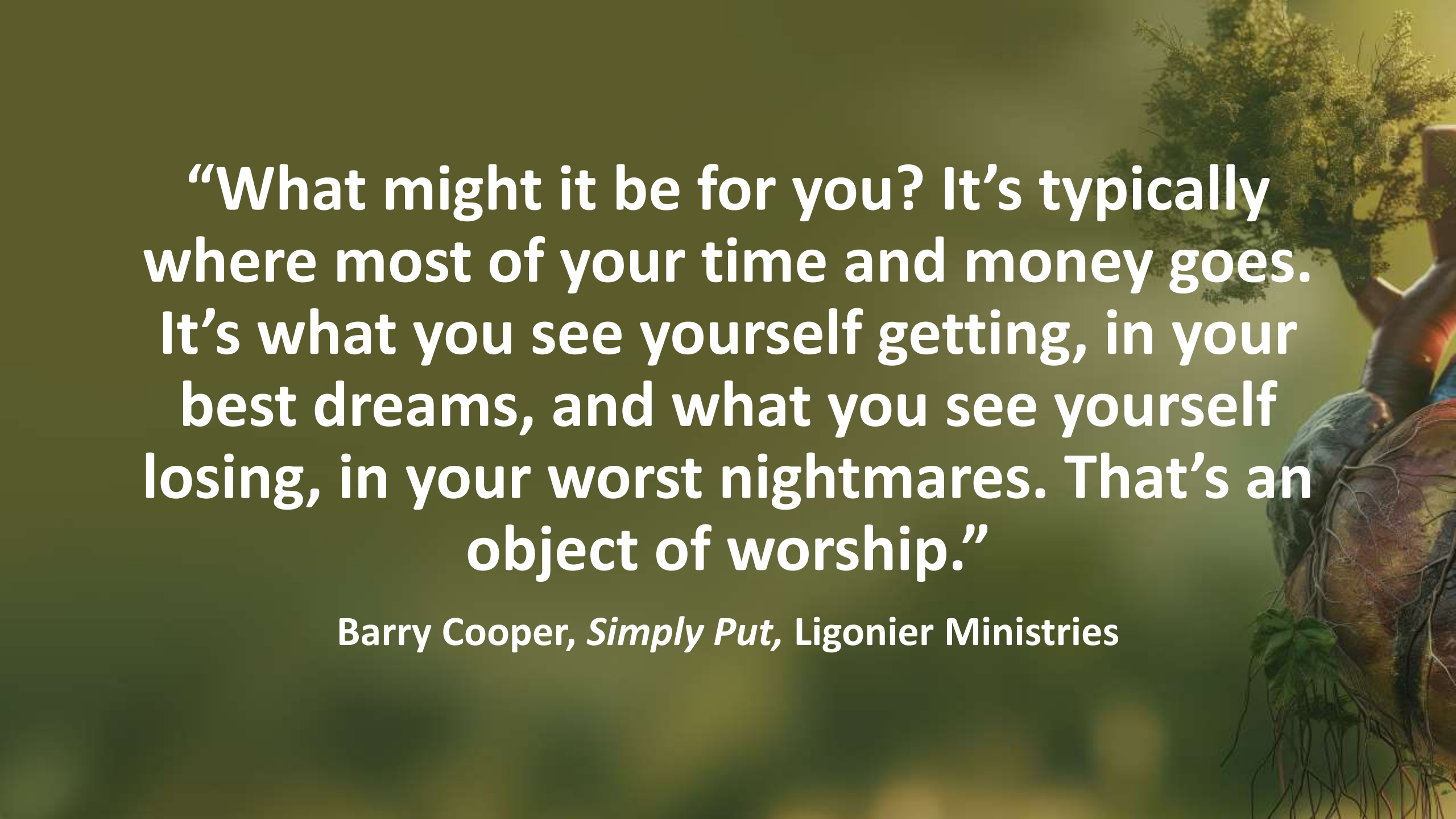


## 4. An idol is an object of worship.

*We have a longing in us to be satisfied.  
We want everything in our life to please us.*




**“But even as people who claim to follow Christ, it can be very easy to inwardly set up ‘high places’ for ourselves and to start worshiping idols. To treat things which are not God as if they were. By which I mean, we start looking to these things to give us a sense of self-worth or satisfaction. We look to these things to give us a sense of power or comfort or control. ...**



**“What might it be for you? It’s typically where most of your time and money goes. It’s what you see yourself getting, in your best dreams, and what you see yourself losing, in your worst nightmares. That’s an object of worship.”**

**Barry Cooper, *Simply Put*, Ligonier Ministries**

A tree with a human-like torso and arms, symbolizing idolatry. The tree's trunk is a muscular human torso, and its branches are human arms. The background is a soft, green, out-of-focus landscape.

**“An idol is anything or anyone that captures our hearts, minds, and affections more than God.”**

**Brad Bigney, *Gospel Treason***

A floating island with a tree and a red arrow pointing to the text.

**5. Idols are found in our desires.**

*I WANT! I WANT! I WANT!*



## a. Idols of importance

- *Successful business, satisfying jobs, good salaries*
- *Wealth, riches, prosperity, comfort*
- *Power, influence*
- *Prestige, popularity*



## b. Idols of leisure

- *Sports*
- *Vacations and travel*
- *Hobbies*
- *Sleep and relaxation*



## c. Idols of distraction

- *Alcohol*
- *Drugs*
- *Tobacco*
- *Sex in all its forms*
- *Technology in all its forms*



## d. Idols of desire

- *I want to be well thought of and respected.*
- *I want to have a Christian family.*
- *I want to have a godly or attentive spouse.*
- *I want to have a spouse.*
- *I want to have well-behaved and obedient children.*
- *I want to have children.*



- *I want to have a significant other.*
- *I want to have my loved one back who died or left me.*
- *I want to be spoken to kindly and treated properly.*
- *I want to feel loved and cherished.*
- *I want to be heard.*
- *I want to not be lonely.*



- *I want to have good health.*
- *I want to be pain free.*
- *I want things to be easy and convenient.*
- *I want to unwind after a long day and have “me” time.*
- *I want to have an easy drive home.*
- *I want to not have to wait in line.*
- *I want to have peace and quiet.*



- *I want to be treated fairly.*
- *I want to be included.*
- *I want to forget the painful trauma of my past.*
- *I want freedom to do what I want.*
- *I want to live in a prosperous nation.*
- *I want to be safe and secure.*
- *I want things to be exactly the way I want them to be.*



**I want = I need...**

**I must have...**

**I demand...**

**You must give me...**

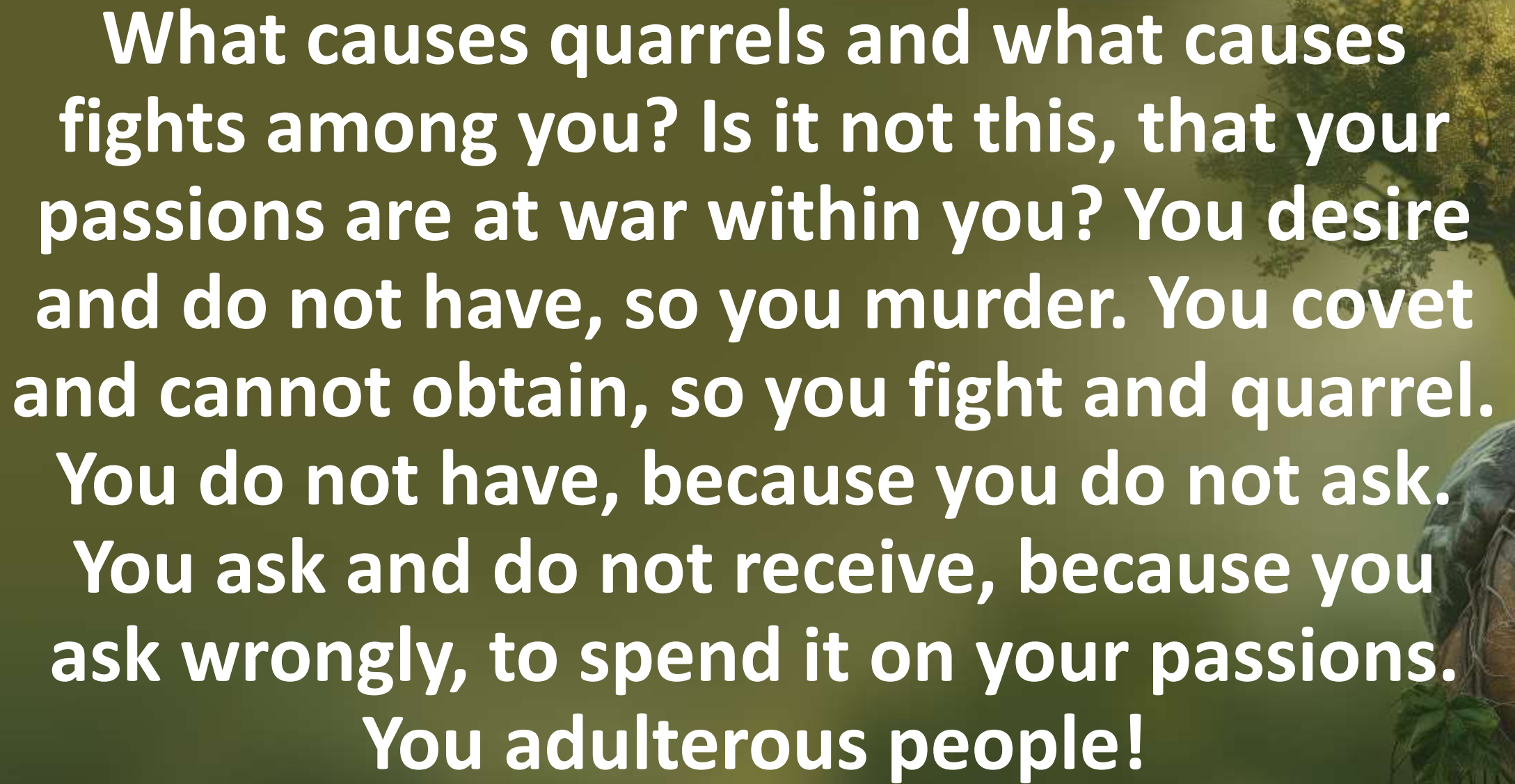
**If you don't give me...**



# Is this an idol?

## Three questions to ask:

1. Will I sin to get it?
2. Will I sin if I think I will lose it?
3. Do I run to it for comfort or solace rather than God?




**What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people!**

**James 4:1-4**



**Bottom line:**

**Do I want what I want  
more than I want to please  
and obey God? Will I sin  
to get what I want?**

A floating island with a tree and a large red object, set against a bright, hazy background. The island is covered in green foliage and has a large, red, cylindrical object protruding from its top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a hazy, golden glow.

**When “good things”  
become “god things,”  
they become idols.**




## 6. We have many idols.

*Our idols are as numerous as the things we seek to make us joyful or peaceful other than God.*



## **7. Our idols affect our loved ones negatively.**

*Our idols negatively affect everyone around us because we are selfishly focused on ourselves and not God or others.*

A hand holding a globe with vines and leaves, symbolizing the cost of idols.

**8. Idols separate us from God;  
they are costly.**

*Idols always separate us from God,  
our true source of joy and peace.*




# 9. Idols incite a response from God.

*God will not take second place in our lives  
and will work to bring us back into  
a right relationship with Him.*

**You shall worship no other god,  
for the Lord, whose name is Jealous,  
is a jealous God...**

**Exodus 34:14**



A floating island with a tree and a large red structure, set against a bright, hazy background. The island is covered in green foliage and has a large, red, cylindrical structure on top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm, golden glow.

**10. The good news:  
God forgives those who  
believe and repent.**

# Homework

- Read Jeremiah 17:1-18.
- Take the X-ray test and begin to identify the things in your life that might be heart idols.
- Come back next week for answers to the questions: How do idols affect me? Why does idolatry happen? How can I quickly spot idols? What can I do about them? What is dendrology and what does it have to do with idols?

