

Questions

1. What form(s) can idolatry take for Christians today?
2. In what way is my sin against another person a manifestation of the sin of my heart's discontentment with God?
3. In what ways does Isaiah 41:21-29 compare God's knowledge and power to that of the idols?
4. Think about the things that you may struggle with as idols. How is that idol seeming to hold some promise of good news? Can it actually deliver on that promise?
5. Can you identify legitimate desires in your life that may be morphing into idolatrous demands? What are some of them?
6. What is one practical step you will take this way to guard yourself from idols? Is there an idol you've made that you need to repent of?

For further reading: *Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel with Hidden Idols* (2012) by Brad Bigney

*After each service, if you need prayer,
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

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Keep Yourselves From Idols

Isaiah 41:21-29; 44:9-20

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These portions of Isaiah unfold a drama that still confronts you and I today: God versus everyone and everything else that seeks to capture my heart, mind, and affections MORE than Him.

Ezekiel 14:3 warns of idols of the heart. Idolatry is worship because worship revolves around who or what we devote ourselves to, give ourselves to, pursue, desire, go to bed thinking about and wake up with it still on our mind.

1. In Isaiah 41:21-24 God called the idols into His courtroom where He compared their **knowledge** with His.

The transcendent Creator is sovereign over the future AND He knows all there is to know about humanity's history and can explain today in light of the past.

2. In Isaiah 41:25-29 God compared His **power** to move the course of history to the complete powerlessness of the idols.
3. In Isaiah 44 God called the idolaters into His courtroom where He exposed that the **source** of their gods was themselves. "You've made this idol and now you fall to your knees to declare it as worthy of your praise!"
4. Isaiah 44:17 captures the **purpose** of the idolaters. They want something that they can control and manipulate for their own benefit. "Deliver me, you are MY god."

From Gospel Treason:

Some legitimate desire may be becoming an idolatrous demand when you're doing one or more of the following:
You'll sacrifice for it.
You'll spend time on it.
You'll spend money on it.
You'll talk about it
You'll protect/defend it.
You'll serve it.
You'll perfect it.
You'll think about it.
You'll worry about it.
You'll get angry when someone blocks you from it or messes with it.
You'll build your schedule around it.

Psalm 115:8-9

⁸ Those who make idols are just like them,
as are all who trust in them.

⁹ Israel, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and shield.