

heart. Before long I was craving nice things and secretly feeling resentful over not having them. Then one day God's Spirit opened my eyes with a disturbing insight: Materialism isn't necessarily *having* things; it can also be *craving* them. There I stood—guilty of materialism! The Lord had exposed my discontentment for what it really was—an idol in my heart. That day as I repented of this subtle sin, God recaptured my heart as His rightful throne. Needless to say, a deep contentment followed, based not on things but on Him.

In Ezekiel's day, the Lord exposed the idolatry in the hearts of His people (Ezekiel 14:3-7). And today He longs for us to rid our hearts of anything that destroys our contentment with Him. —Joanie Yoder

*The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne
And worship only Thee. —Cowper*

An idol is anything that takes God's rightful place.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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The Heart Of Idolatry

These men have set up their idols in their hearts. —Ezekiel 14:3

When my husband and I first went out as missionaries, I was concerned about the growth of materialism in our society. It never even crossed my mind that I myself could be materialistic. After all, hadn't we gone overseas with almost nothing? Weren't we having to live in an old, shabbily furnished, rundown apartment? I thought materialism couldn't touch us.

Nonetheless, feelings of discontent gradually began to take root in my



Insights for Living Heart Worship



(1 Corinthians 10:14) "Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

In Philippians 3:1-10 there are 2 crucial comments about heart worship:

1. True heart worship is _____, 3:1-3, 9-10, 4:6-7, 2:4, 4:13,

(Deuteronomy 10:16) ""Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer."

(Jeremiah 4:4) "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, ...""

(Romans 2:29) "but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; ..."
(John 4:24) ""God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.""

(Jeremiah 9:23-24) "Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; {24} But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD."

(2 Corinthians 5:21) "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

(Ezekiel 14:3) ""Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"

(1 John 5:21) "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."

(1 John 2:15-17) "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."



2. True heart worship _____ else,
verses 3-8

