

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What is the Biblical concept of the heart?
- #2. What is your definition of idolatry?
- #3. What are some common idols in our culture?
- #4. What are some other spiritual diseases of the heart?
- #5. What was happening in Ezekiel 14:1-6
- #6. What happened to King Solomon at the end of his life?  
(1 Kings 11:1-4)
- #7. Read Jeremiah 2:11-13 and discuss the concept of idolatry.
- #8. How can we be cured of idolatry?
- #9. What is the role of confession and repentance in being cured of idolatry?
- #10. Read Psalm 51:10-12 and discuss how this passage relates to the purification of the heart.
- #11. Read Matthew 6:19-21, & 24 and discuss how this relates to idolatry.
- #12. What is your takeaway from this teaching?

# ***Welcome***

***to***

# ***Hillcrest Church!***

## ***Memorial Day Weekend***

*Humble yourselves before the Lord,  
and he will lift you up.*

*James 4:10*

***May 29, 2022  
Pastor Bruce Guckelberg***

## “America – A Land of Idolatry”

Ezekiel 14:1-6

---

One roadblock to experiencing a deeper relationship with God is idolatry. American culture is filled with idols: rock stars, athletes, movie stars, cars, careers, and so on. The prophet Ezekiel was sent to address the sin of idolatry that existed in the Southern Kingdom, which was so severe that God’s judgment came upon them. In today’s message, we will discuss the temptations that exist in an idolatrous culture and see how we can keep our relationship with the Lord on solid footing.

---

### #1. IDOLATRY IS A \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE HEART, Proverbs 4:20-23, Deu 6:5, Mat 22:34-40

- A. The heart is the core of a person, Deu 6:5
- B. The heart is where one connects with God, Deu 6:5
- C. The heart must be guarded, Pro 4:23
- D. The heart is where life flows from, Pro 4:23
- E. The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest commandments, Mat 22:37-39
- F. The law & prophets hang on the love commands, v. 40 (cf Gal 5:14, James 2:8)

#### Definition of an idol:

An idol is anything that occupies space in your \_\_\_\_\_ that belongs exclusively to \_\_\_\_\_

### #2. IDOLATRY SHIFTS THE FOCUS OF OUR HEARTS AWAY FROM \_\_\_\_\_ GOD FULLY, Eze 14:1-6

- A. Idols were in the Temple, 5:11, 8:9-10
- B. Idols caused the glory of the Lord to depart, 10:18
- C. Idols are in the heart, v. 3
- D. Idols poison the heart, v. 5
- E. Idols cause divided loyalties, v. 5
- F. Idols inhibit obedience, v. 5
- G. Idols caused Solomon’s downfall, (1 Kings 11:1-4)

### #3. IDOLATRY SHIFTS THE FOCUS OF OUR HEARTS AWAY FROM GOD TO \_\_\_\_\_, Jer 2:11-13

- A. Idolatry is changing gods, v. 11
- B. Idolatry is exchanging God’s glory for something worthless, v. 11
- C. Idolatry is appalling to God, v. 12
- D. Idolatry is forsaking God – the spring of living water, v. 13 (John 4:14)
- E. Idolatry is digging our own cisterns – broken that can’t hold water, v. 13

### #4. IDOLATRY IS CURED BY GOD \_\_\_\_\_ OUR HEARTS, Eze 14:5-6

- A. God can recapture our hearts, v. 5
- B. God requires repentance, v. 6
- C. God requires renouncing all idols, v. 6
- D. God will cleanse an impure heart, v. 5 (James 4:8)

#### NOTES:

**ANSWERS:** Spiritual Disease, Heart, God, Loving, Substitutes, Cleansing.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **TODAY – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

We are mindful of the cost of our freedom. This morning we pause and remember those who have given their lives to provide the liberty that we enjoy. God bless America/

### **NEXT WEEK – CHURCH IN THE PARK**

We will gather at Garbolino Park for worship at 10:30 followed by our annual picnic. The church will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, and condiments, forks, and water. There is a sign-up sheet in the back where you can note the things that need to be brought. Bring a dish to share, a chair, and a drink. Be sure to invite a friend.

### **JUNE 7 ELECTION**

Hillcrest Church will be used as a polling place on June 7.

### **ONLINE GATHERINGS**

Tuesday Prayer at 7:00pm

Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm

Go to the online meeting room on our website ([hillcrestRoseville.com](http://hillcrestRoseville.com)) to access the gathering.

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online ([hillcrestroseville.com](http://hillcrestroseville.com)).

### **EAST INDIAN DINNER**

Thanks for all your generous donations that were made during the East Indian Dinner. Thus far just over \$10,000 has been given, which will be split between the Great Commission Fund and the Kibaale school in Uganda. You can still give to this effort by writing “Dinner” in the memo of your check.

### **CHURCH PICNIC AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>**