

## Idols of the Heart

### A Questionnaire for Bible Discussion

Facilitated by John Butcher

“. . . that most basic question which God poses to each human heart: “has something or someone besides Jesus the Christ taken title to your heart’s **functional** trust, preoccupation, loyalty, service, fear and delight?”—Stephen Charnock, The Existence and Attributes of God.

Circle the thoughts (or the numbered items) that are lodged in your heart:

1. Life only has meaning/or I only have worth if I have power and influence over others.
2. Life only has meaning if I am loved and respected by \_\_\_\_\_
3. Life only has meaning if I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.
4. Life only has meaning if I have a particular kind of look or body image.
5. Life only has meaning if I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Life only has meaning if people are dependent on me and need me.
7. Life only has meaning if there is someone there to protect me and keep me safe.
8. Life only has meaning if I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.
9. Life only has meaning if I am highly productive getting a lot done.
10. Life only has meaning if I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and if I am excelling in my career.
11. Life only has meaning if there is a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.
12. Life only has meaning if I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.
13. Life only has meaning if this one person is in my life and happy there and/or happy with me.
14. Life only has meaning if I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and with a self-made morality.
15. Life only has meaning if a particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in.
16. Life only has meaning if my children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.
17. Life only has meaning if Mr. Or Ms. “Right” is in love with me.
18. Life only has meaning if I am hurting, in a problem—only then do I feel noble or worthy of love or am able to deal with guilt.
19. Life only has meaning if my political or social cause or party is making progress and ascending in influence or power.