

Build: Demolishing Our Heart Idols
Ezekiel 14:1-8

Ezekiel 14:1 (ESV)

Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

Ezekiel 14:2 (ESV)

And the word of the Lord came to me:

Ezekiel 14:3 (ESV)

“Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let Myself be consulted by them?

Ezekiel 14:4 (ESV)

Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols,

Ezekiel 14:5 (ESV)

that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from Me through their idols.

Ezekiel 14:6 (ESV)

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

Ezekiel 14:7 (ESV)

For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from Me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult Me through him, I the Lord will answer him Myself.

Ezekiel 14:8 (ESV)

And I will set My face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of My people, and you shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 14:6 (ESV)

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: Repent and turn away from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.

1. God sees the idolatry of our hearts.

Ezekiel 14:1 (ESV)

Then certain of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me.

Ezekiel 14:2 (ESV)

And the word of the Lord came to me:

Ezekiel 14:3 (ESV)

“Son of man, these men have taken their idols into their hearts, and set the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I indeed let Myself be consulted by them?”

Ezekiel 8:12 (ESV)

Then He said to me, “Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel are doing in the dark, each in his room of pictures? For they say, ‘The Lord does not see us, the Lord has forsaken the land.’”

Exodus 20:2-3 (ESV)

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.

“Man’s nature, so to speak, is a perpetual factory of idols.” John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*

2. God detests the idolatry of our hearts.**Ezekiel 14:4 (ESV)**

Therefore speak to them and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Any one of the house of Israel who takes his idols into his heart and sets the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him as he comes with the multitude of his idols,

Ezekiel 14:5 (ESV)

that I may lay hold of the hearts of the house of Israel, who are all estranged from Me through their idols.

Deuteronomy 6:14 (ESV)

You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—

Deuteronomy 6:15 (ESV)

for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth.

3. God judges the idolatry of our hearts.**Ezekiel 14:7 (ESV)**

For any one of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel, who separates himself from Me, taking his idols into his heart and putting the stumbling block

of his iniquity before his face, and yet comes to a prophet to consult Me through him, I the Lord will answer him Myself.

Ezekiel 14:8 (ESV)

And I will set My face against that man; I will make him a sign and a byword and cut him off from the midst of My people ...

How to diagnose the idols of your heart:

- **What do you respect?**
- **What do you fear?**
- **What do you serve?**
- **What do you love?**
- **What do you put confidence in?**
- **Where do you place your hope?**

4. God surpasses the idolatry of our hearts.

Ezekiel 14:8 (ESV)

... and you shall know that I am the Lord.

Exodus 20:2-3 (ESV)

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me.

Ezekiel 37:13 (ESV)

And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people.

Colossians 3:4 (ESV)

When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:5 (ESV)

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.