

Seven Examples of “Idols” in the Hearts of Christians

1. **APPROVAL:** To feel good about myself, I must have the approval and respect of others.
2. **CONTROL:** To feel safe, I must be in control of my circumstances and other people.
3. **REPUTATION:** What others think about me controls me, so I must control what they think with my image and reputation.
4. **SUCCESS:** I must succeed to feel good about myself and to win the affection of others.
5. **PLEASURE:** I must deaden the pain of my soul with sinful self-indulgence.
6. **KNOWLEDGE:** I must know things and impress others with that knowledge.
7. **SAFETY:** I must feel secure in all situations so I will not attempt anything that is risky (like loving others, witnessing or tithing).

QUESTION: HOW do I “detect” the idols in my heart?

ANSWER: Ask and answer this question: “What do I love, trust or fear?”

KEY: “Faith... Involves learning how to set the affections of our mind and heart on Christ... Faith requires a continual rehearsing and delighting in the many privileges that are now ours in Christ.” (Dr. Steve Childers quoted in *The Gospel-Centered Life: World Harvest Mission*, page 28)