

## *Counterfeit Gods—Defeating the Idols that Battle for Our Hearts*

### *“The god of Romance”*

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1 John 4:10-12

12.9.18

- A. Our culture holds up romantic love as the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of pursuits.
- B. We are encouraged to spend our lives searching for our \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Believe it or not, life was never meant to be all about \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Romantic love is a good thing, but when we make it \_\_\_\_\_, and when we make it essential to life and happiness, then it becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. To practice any kind of idolatry is to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. There is a story in the Bible that illustrates how this quest for idolatrous love is a form of slavery and leads to disappointment and pain—it is the story of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ found in Genesis 29.
- G. Jacob was more than smitten with \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen. 29:15-20).
- H. Ernest Becker suggests with a loss of belief in God, people look to romance to give them the transcendence of \_\_\_\_\_ that they used to get from \_\_\_\_\_ in God.
- I. As you know, Laban switched the brides on the wedding night, and the woman Jacob woke up next to wasn't \_\_\_\_\_, but was \_\_\_\_\_.
- J. Leah had a hollow in her \_\_\_\_\_ every bit as big as the hollow in Jacob's \_\_\_\_\_.
- K. Leah thought that if she kept having \_\_\_\_\_, her husband would \_\_\_\_\_ and appreciate her more.
- L. The moral of this story and of many stories in the Bible is simply to reveal to us the \_\_\_\_\_ we humans have made of God's plan, and that the only solution is what God will do and has done through \_\_\_\_\_.
- M. The most important lesson that all of us need to learn is that \_\_\_\_\_ is the only One who can truly \_\_\_\_\_ us - we are made for Him.
- N. \_\_\_\_\_ is the one person in the story who makes some spiritual progress.
- O. When her last son was born it appears that she had taken her heart's deepest hopes off her \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and had put them on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- P. Here's the amazing part of the story: God had come to the girl that nobody wanted, the unloved one, and made her the ancestral \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Q. As fantastic as \_\_\_\_\_ love can be, it can never be a substitute for \_\_\_\_\_ love.

The god of romance came in and swept us off our feet. We fell head over heels for such a god. The music was playing. Our hearts were pounding. Our palms were sweating. Life was like a really corny, really wonderful movie that comes on TBS late at night.

We were in love with love, with the idea of a “soul mate,” someone custom-made for us. The two of us would create our own world and lock everyone else out. We would complete each other's sentences, laugh at each other's jokes, and stare into one another's eyes.

But something went wrong. Once the giddiness wore off, we discovered that human beings are no more nor less than human beings. And ultimately human beings fall miserably short of being God.

No human being, we discovered, can meet all our needs. No human being deserves that much pressure. But Jesus can do it – Jesus our identity. It was wonderfully liberating to break free of the shackles of finding who we were in one person who could define for us what it meant to be alive. Jesus once said that no one has greater love than the one who will lay down his life for a friend. And then he proved it. (Kyle Idleman, “Jesus My Identity”)

Answer Key: A. Greatest, noblest. B. soul, mate. C. romantic, love. D. everything, false, god. E. slave. F. Jacob, Leah. G. Rachel. H. meaning, faith. I. Rachel, Leah. J. heart, heart. K. sons, love. L. mess, Jesus. M. God, complete. N. Leah. O. husband, children, Lord. P. mother, Jesus. Q. human, God's.