Counterfeit Gods—Defeating the Idols that Battle for Our Hearts

“The god of Romance”

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1 John 4:10-12

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”)

Q. human, God’s.