

A vibrant watercolor background in shades of yellow, pink, and teal. A large, solid black cross is centered on the page, overlapping the text.

# IDOLS OF THE HEART

THE GOSPEL SERIES #5

*By faith in Jesus  
our heart is clean  
in God's sight  
(right identity)*



*By following Jesus  
the idols of our  
heart are removed  
(right living)*

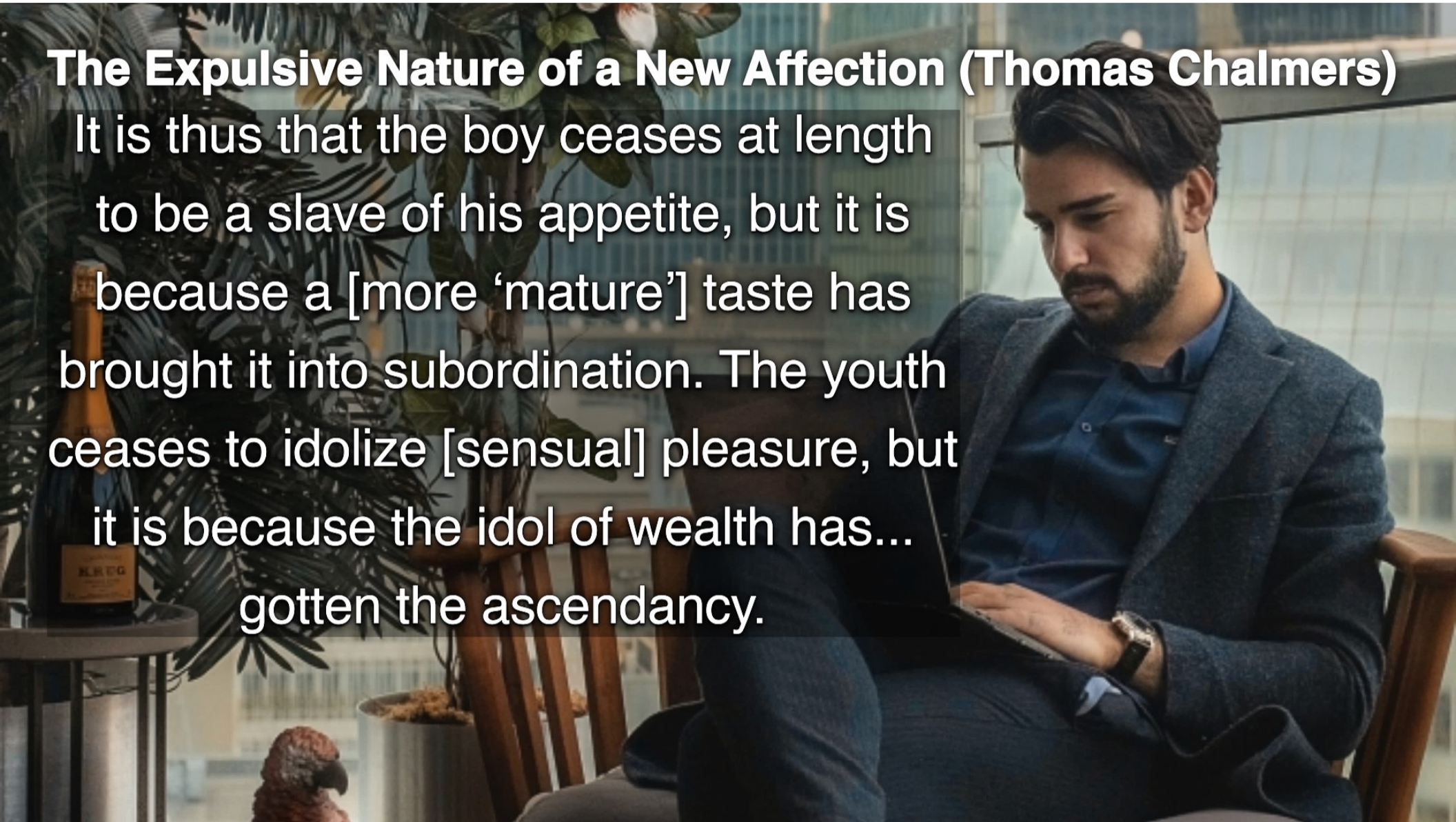




**The Gospel orders the  
disordered loves of the  
human heart.**

## **The Expulsive Nature of a New Affection (Thomas Chalmers)**

It is thus that the boy ceases at length to be a slave of his appetite, but it is because a [more 'mature'] taste has brought it into subordination. The youth ceases to idolize [sensual] pleasure, but it is because the idol of wealth has... gotten the ascendancy.



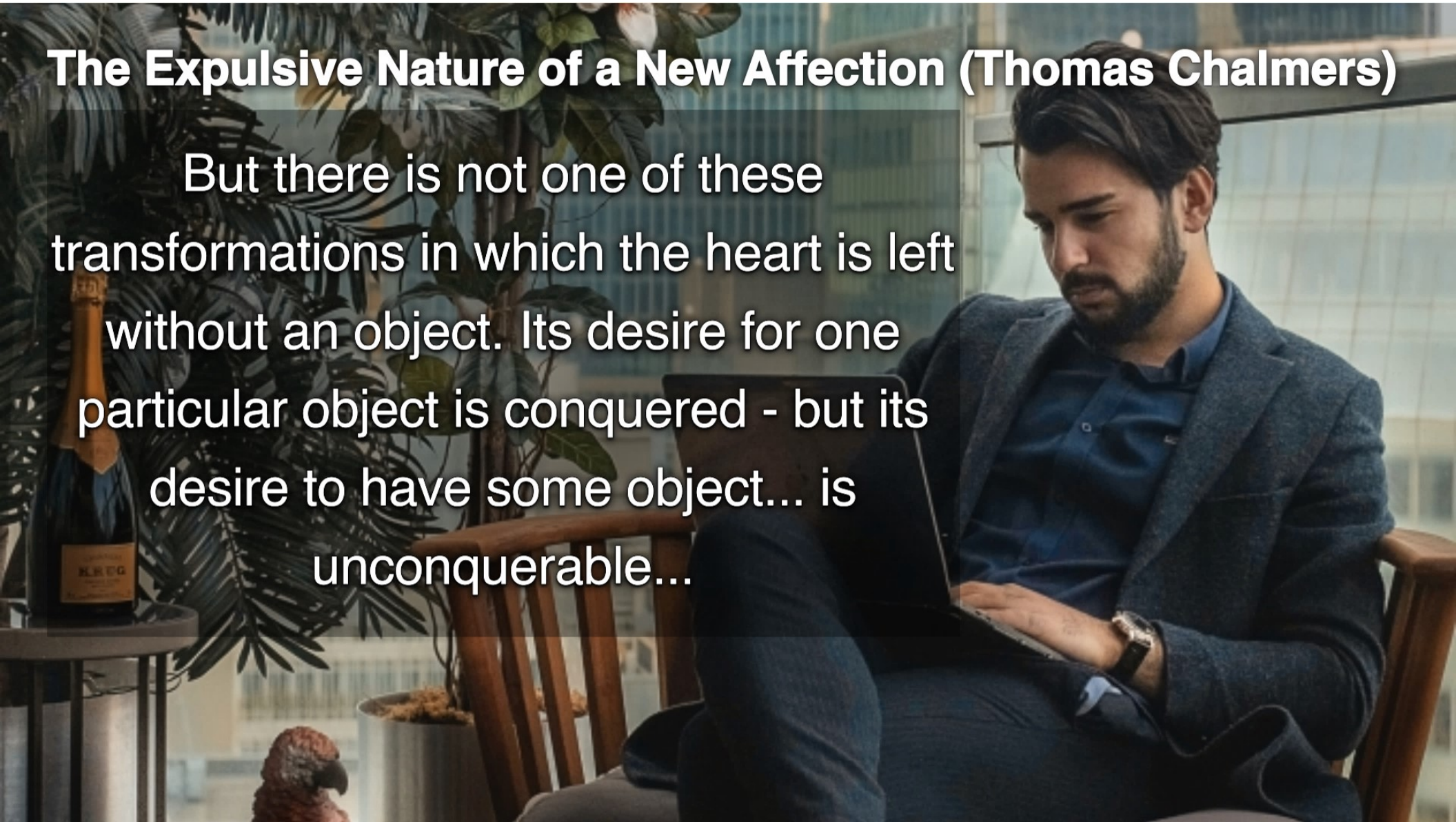


## The Expulsive Nature of a New Affection (Thomas Chalmers)

Even the love of money can cease to have mastery over the heart because it is drawn into the whirl of [ideology and politics] and he is now lorded over by a love of power [and moral superiority].

## The Expulsive Nature of a New Affection (Thomas Chalmers)

But there is not one of these transformations in which the heart is left without an object. Its desire for one particular object is conquered - but its desire to have some object... is unconquerable...











<sup>3</sup> “You must not have any other god but me. <sup>4</sup> “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or **an image of anything** in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. <sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate **your affection** for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected - even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.



**Exodus 20:3–5 NLT**

<sup>20</sup> For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. <sup>21</sup> Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't **worship him as God** or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their **hearts** became dark and confused. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. <sup>23</sup> And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they **worshiped idols** made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

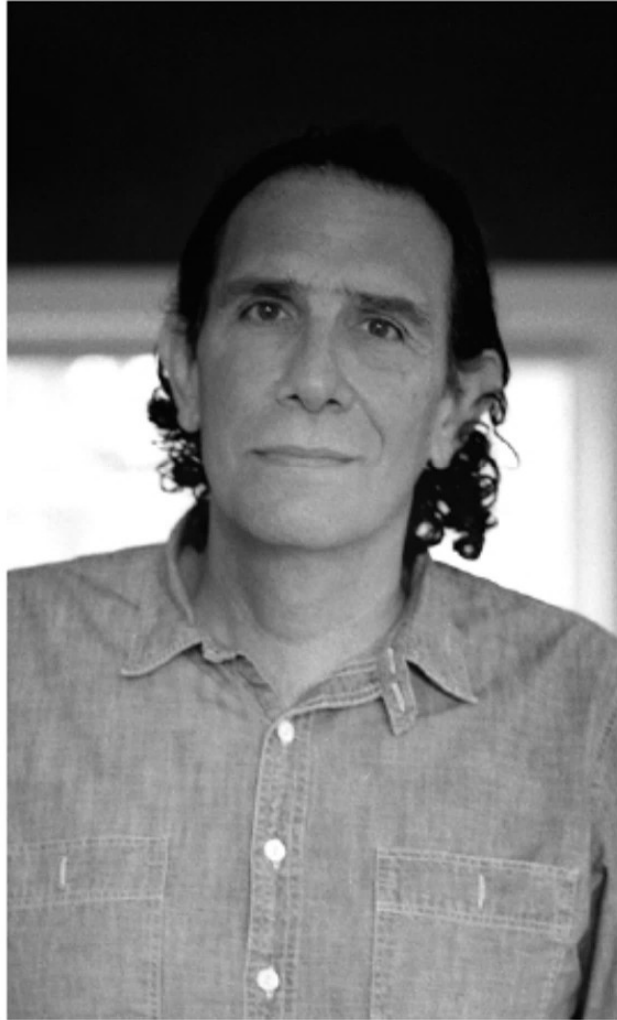


**Romans 1:20–25 NLT**

<sup>24</sup> So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. <sup>25</sup> They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.



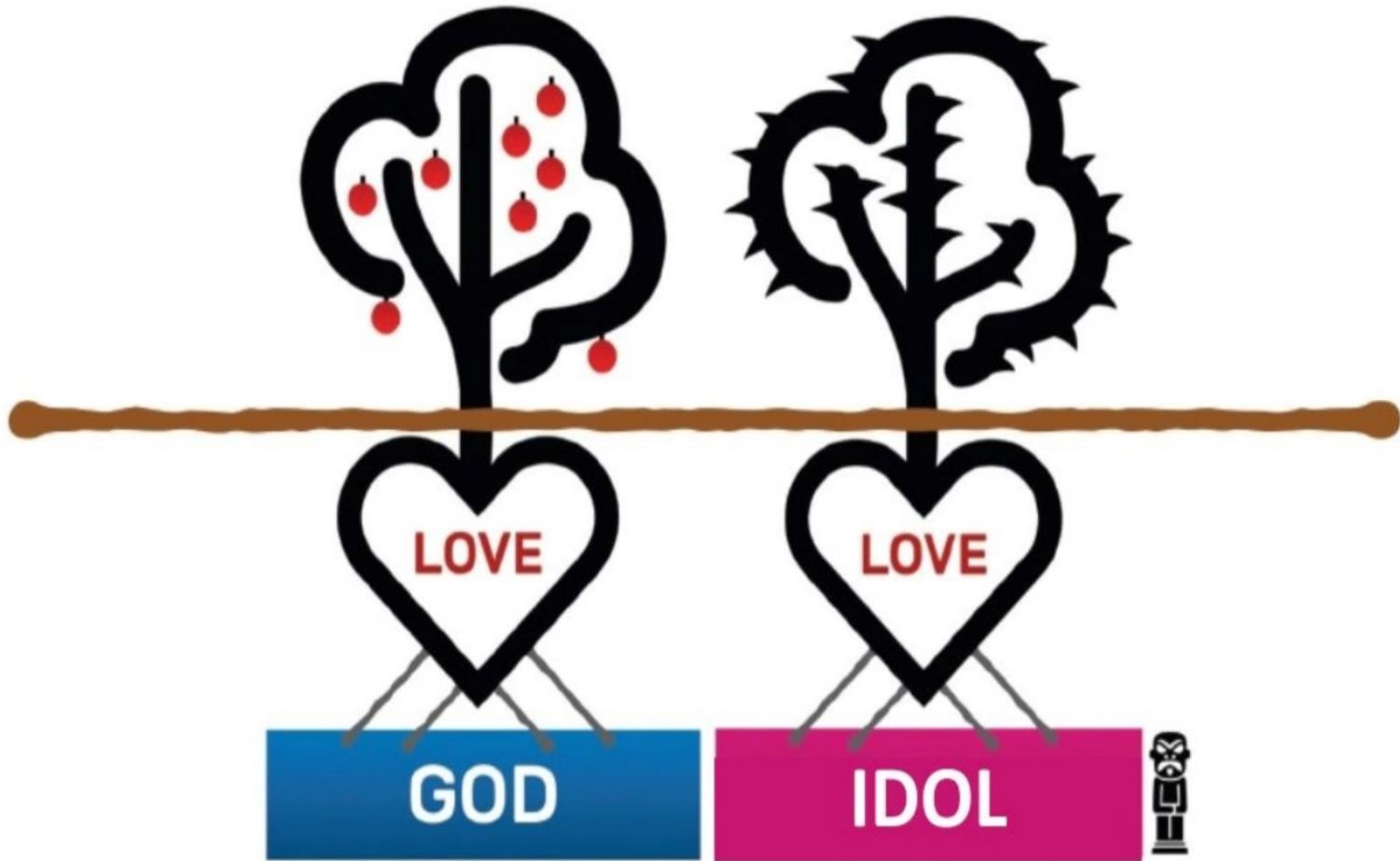
**Romans 1:20–25 NLT**




Idolatry is placing our longings for what only God can provide (source of life) in the hands of a creature instead of the creator.

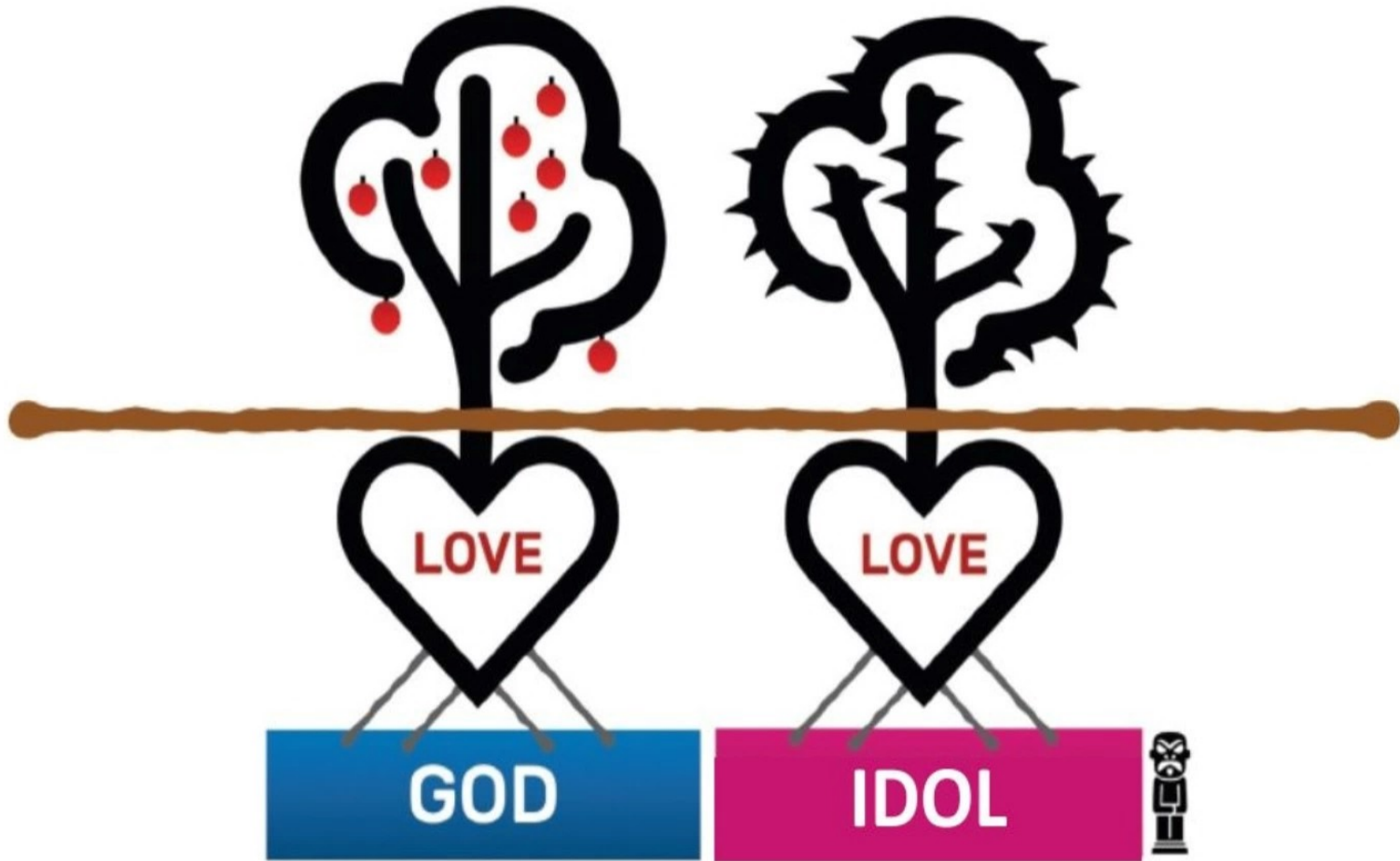
Dan Allender, *The Wounded Heart*, p. 68







**The Gospel orders the  
disordered loves of the  
human heart.**





## Four Meta-Desires



**POWER**



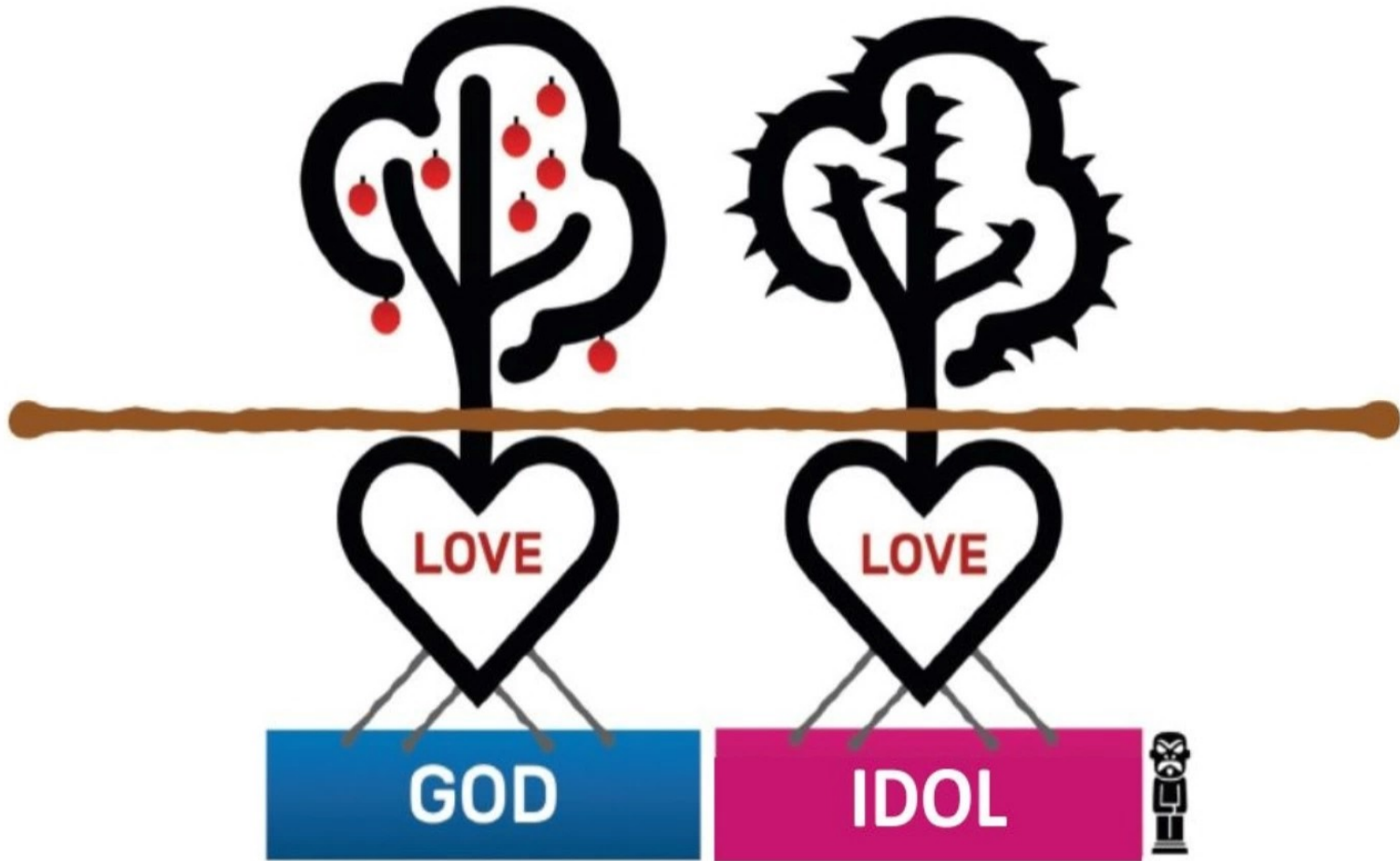
**APPROVAL**



**COMFORT**



**CONTROL**



<sup>14</sup> Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. <sup>15</sup> These **desires** give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.



**James 1:14–15 NLT**



**POWER**

*Use people and things to  
worship the idol of success*

*“it’s all  
for Jesus”*

*“I am just  
a driven  
person”*



**COMFORT**

*I indulge myself to worship  
idol of nice feelings*

*“I’ve given  
a lot to this  
church”*

*“I deserve  
it”*



**CONTROL**

*Do everything myself to  
worship idol of certainty*

*“God told  
me to”*

*“people  
are idiots”*



**APPROVAL**

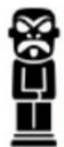
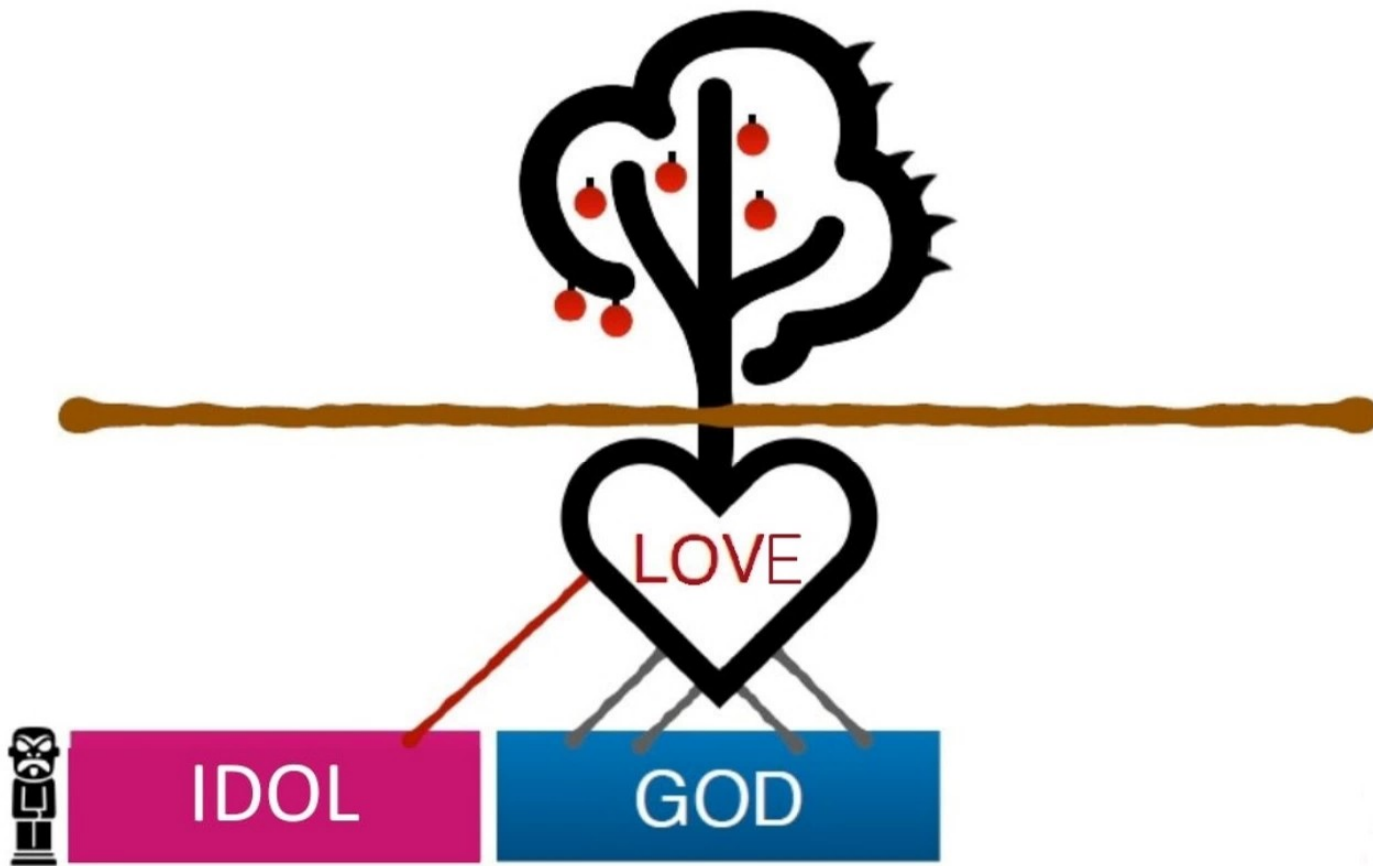
*Please people to worship idol  
of acceptance*

*“it’s all  
about  
people”*

*“I’m just  
easy-going”*







# **The Gospel orders the disordered loves of the human heart**

Don't try to dispel idols, just love God.

Don't try to be better, just follow Jesus with all your heart.

Don't perform or fake, just humble yourself and pray.

# Gospel Practice

## Dealing with my heart's idols

### *Alone:*

Complete during  
personal prayer in  
order to Connect  
with Jesus

### *Group:*

Complete with a  
friend or your Life  
Group in order to  
Grow Together

[discoverchurch.org.au/practices](http://discoverchurch.org.au/practices)