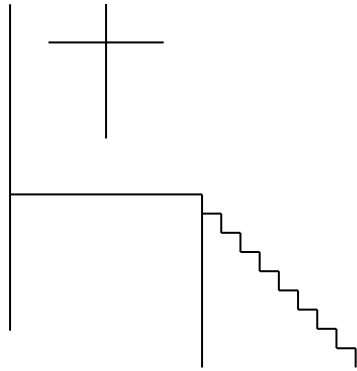


Idols of the Heart

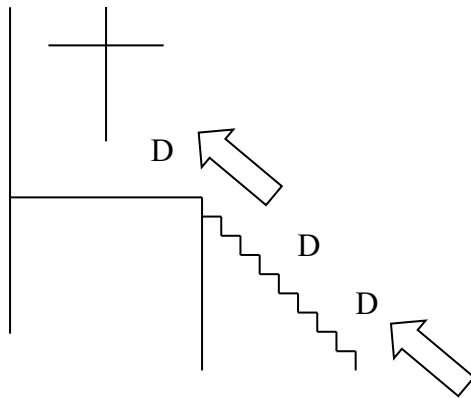
How anything can take the place of Christ

Christ alone should occupy the throne of our heart.



A B C D E F G H
(desires for good things)

All desires should be submitted under the Lordship of Christ. There are good desires, like Jesus' desire for his disciples to pray with him, but they fall asleep. But something becomes an idol, even if it is a "good thing" if it overtakes our heart. What should we do if this happens?



A B C D E F G H

1. Recognize / Repent

"D" is the desire that has turned into a demand of entitlement. That's a demand that needs to be nipped in the bud as soon as it sprouts.

2. Refocus on God: singularity. There is one answer. Refocus on God, his presence and promises.

3. Replace with prayer, self-control, patience, godly conflict resolution skills, godly character.

Additional help: complete the following statements in your life:

"I must have _____ to live a meaningful life."

"What I think I need or desperately want is _____."

(Biblical view of "needs": 2 Pet 1:3; Lk 10:38-42; Psa 27; 73:23-28; Mt 4:4)

"You must give me _____ or I'll be angry at you or cold toward you."

"If only _____ would change, I would be satisfied or content."

"If I don't get _____, then I become depressed, angry or anxious."