



IDOLATRY

GODS THAT FAIL

4. Retraining Our Loves



Miss Americana

NETFLIX

TAYLOR SWIFT

SURFACE IDOLS

money

children

sex

marriage

career

beauty

DEEP IDOLS

power / influence

security

approval of others

control

comfort



TAYLOR SWIFT

You know my entire moral code, as a kid and now, is a need to be thought of as good. It was all I wrote about. It was all I wanted. It was the complete and total belief system that I subscribed to as a kid. Do the right thing. Do the good thing. And obviously, I'm not a perfect person by any stretch, but overall, the main thing that I always tried to be was a good girl.



TAYLOR SWIFT

... I'd been trained to be happy when you get a lot of praise. I had that praise of, "Taylor, you're doing a good job at your work. You're doing a good job at being a songwriter. You're doing a good job at being a musician." Those pats on the head were all I lived for. I was so fulfilled by approval that that was it. I became the person who everyone wanted me to be.





TAYLOR SWIFT

When you're living for the approval of strangers and that is where you derive all of your joy and fulfillment, one bad thing can cause everything to crumble. ... There's so much pressure going into putting new music out. If I don't beat everything I've done prior, it'll be deemed as a colossal failure.



TAYLOR SWIFT

I remember thinking afterward,
"Oh my God that was all you
wanted. Oh, God, that was all
you wanted. That was all you
focused on."

You get to the mountaintop and
you look around, and you're like,
"Oh, God. What now?"



We're people who got into this line of work because we wanted people to like us, because we were intrinsically insecure, because we like the sound of people clapping because it made us forget how much we feel like we're not good enough. And I've been doing this for 15 years, and I'm tired of it. ... I had to deconstruct an entire belief system for my own personal sanity.

REST

MATTHEW
11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

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JEREMIAH
2:20-21,
23-25

“Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you said, ‘I will not serve you!’ Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute. I had planted you like a choice vine of sound and reliable stock. How then did you turn against me into a corrupt, wild vine?” ... How can you say, ‘I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals’? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done.

JEREMIAH
2:20-21,
23-25

You are a swift she-camel running here and there, a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving— in her heat who can restrain her? Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves; at mating time they will find her. Do not run until your feet are bare and your throat is dry. But you said, 'It's no use! I love foreign gods, and I must go after them.'

ISAIAH
55:1-2

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.



Doritos

COOL ORIGINAL

Jelly Belly
THE ORIGINAL GOURMET JELLY BEANS

ASSORTED FLAVOURS 20 SAVEURS ASSORTIES
SORTEN MISCHUNG 20 SMAKEN ASSORTIMEN

Skittles
Fruits

Skittles

PEANUT
m & m's

Leppert

TWIX

Krackel

HERSHEY'S

M&M's



JEREMIAH
6:16

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'

The cure for our
wayward desires and
idolatrous heart is the
retraining of our loves.



Our idols captured our hearts,
and we worship them, repeatedly
giving ourselves to them, until our
devotion to them becomes a
deeply ingrained habit of our soul.

The spiritual disciplines help us develop habits which reorient our loves toward God and the things that are on his heart.

JAMES
K.A.
SMITH

If love is both habit and hunger, then our tastes and cravings for what's ultimate will be changed in the same way. Reflection is important ... but reflection should propel us into new practices that will reform our hungers by inscribing new habits.

The church—the body of Christ—is the place where God invites us to renew our loves, reorient our desires, and retrain our

JAMES
K.A.
SMITH

appetites. Indeed, isn't the church where we are nourished by the Word, where we "eat the Word" and receive the bread of life? The church is that household where the Spirit feeds us what we need and where, by his grace, we become a people who desire him above all else. Christian worship is the feast where we acquire new hungers—for God and for what God desires—and are then sent into his creation to act accordingly. ...

JAMES
K.A.
SMITH

Our sanctification—the process of becoming holy and Christlike—is more like a Weight Watchers program than listening to a book on tape. If sanctification is tantamount to closing the gap between what I know and what I do, it means changing what I want. And that requires submitting ourselves to disciplines and regimens that reach down into our deepest habits. The Spirit of God

JAMES
K.A.
SMITH

meets us in that space—in that gap—not with lightning bolts of magic but with the concrete practices of the body of Christ that conscript our bodily habits. If we think of sanctification as learning to “put on” or “clothe” ourselves with Christ (Rom. 13:14; Col. 3:14), this is intimately bound up with becoming incorporated into his body, the *corpus Christi*.

1 JOHN
5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

1 JOHN
5:1-5

for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

JEN
POLLOCK
MICHEL

If Jesus is king, our desires are turned upside down. We owe no more loyalty to the idols of status and popularity. If Jesus is king, we no longer bow at the feet of prestige and comfort. Money, sex and power—these are the gods dethroned when the kingdom of heaven is at hand. “When we are truly announcing the lordship of Jesus, we must make it clear

JEN
POLLOCK
MICHEL

that, according to this gospel, the one true God has dealt in Jesus Christ with sin, death, guilt and shame, and now summons men and women everywhere to abandon the idols which hold them captive to these things and to discover a new life, and a new way of life, in him.”
“Jesus is King” is the pledge of allegiance to the one true God. The faith transaction,

JEN
POLLOCK
MICHEL

which I'd grown up believing was the moment I confessed my sin and claimed ownership of heaven, had far more profound implications for my life than simply determining where I would spend eternity after I died. I belonged to Christ—and his kingdom. This laid claim to my deepest desires, here and now.

PSALM
34:1-10

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

PSALM
34:1-10

Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame.

This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

PSALM
34:1-10

Taste and see that the LORD is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in
him.

Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for
those who fear him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but
those who seek the LORD lack no good
thing.

PSALM
40:1-8

I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.

PSALM
40:1-8

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
who does not look to the proud, to those
who turn aside to false gods.

Many, LORD my God, are the wonders
you have done, the things you planned
for us. None can compare with you; were I
to speak and tell of your deeds, they
would be too many to declare.

PSALM
40:1-8

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—
but my ears you have opened – burnt
offerings and sin offerings you did not
require.

Then I said, “Here I am, I have come— it is
written about me in the scroll. I desire to
do your will, my God; your law is within
my heart.”

Summary

In order to overthrow our idols, our hearts must be retrained to love God and the things that he loves.