

CHRISTIAN-ISH: A HEART THAT PUTS GOD 2ND

1. If you're a Christian, what should your 1st Priority in life be? **GOD!**

Example: Imagine your life as a series of chairs...

- 1st Chair = 1st Priority...the most important thing in your life.
- 2nd Chair = 2nd most important thing.
- Etc.

2. Here's the problem....

We often **SAY** God is the first priority in our lives; but our **ACTIONS** show something different. When we do this, we slip into being "Christian-ish".

3. "Christian-ish":

- lukewarm faith
- half-hearted faith
- claiming to be a Christian; but not really following Jesus
- faith where God is 1st in **OUR WORDS**, but not in **REAL LIFE**

4. Anytime we put something ahead of God, it's called an **IDOL**.

"You shall have no other gods before Me." Exodus 20:3 (NIV)

"Dear children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21 (NIV)

"Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts." 1 John 5:21 (NLT)

5. An often-overlooked part of the nature of God: God is a **JEALOUS** God.

"You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about His relationship with you." Exodus 34:14 (NLT)

"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." Exodus 20:5a (NLT)

"For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God." Deuteronomy 4:24 (KJV)

6. In Hebrew, jealousy attributed to God is **"QANNA"**:

God's righteous, consuming, covenant-keeping jealousy that relentlessly pursues and protects His relationship with His people.

7. What you think is your "problem" (anxiety, tension, anger, drink too much, etc.) ...may not be your problem; but a **SYMPTOM** of your real problem – **IDOLATRY** - putting something, other than God, in the "1st Chair" of your life.

8. What's your "Thing"?

Your "Thing" may be something good...unless we put it ahead of God; and then, it becomes an **IDOL**.

9. How do I know if something is an idol in my life?

- Does it lead me closer to God or distract me from God?
- Do I rely on it, more than God, for my comfort, identity, and worth?
- If God asked me to give it up, would I give it up without hesitation?

10. When we find that we have an idol, we don't just **REMOVE IT**, we **REPLACE IT** by putting God first.

11. So, why's it so hard to put God in the 1st Chair? Because we really don't **WANT HIM THERE**.

- And why don't we want Him there?
Because we don't know **HOW GOOD GOD REALLY IS**.
- And how do we find out how good God really is?
By putting Him in the **1ST CHAIR OF OUR LIVES**.

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!" Psalm 34:8 (NLT)

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33 (KJV)