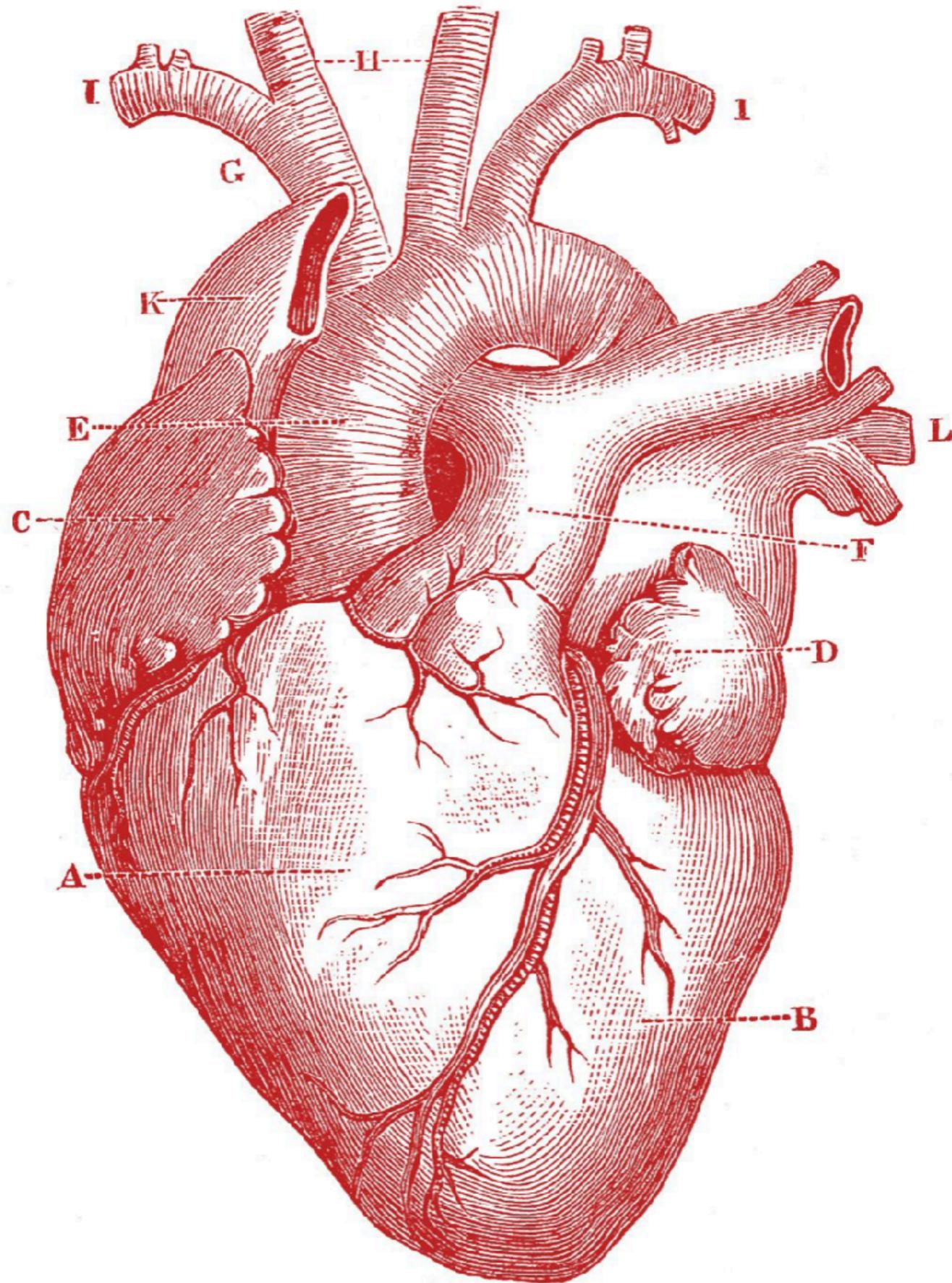


Fig. 37.



# The heart of the matter

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GOD'S ANATOMY OF OUR HEARTS

# The idolatrous heart

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EZEKIEL 14:1-6

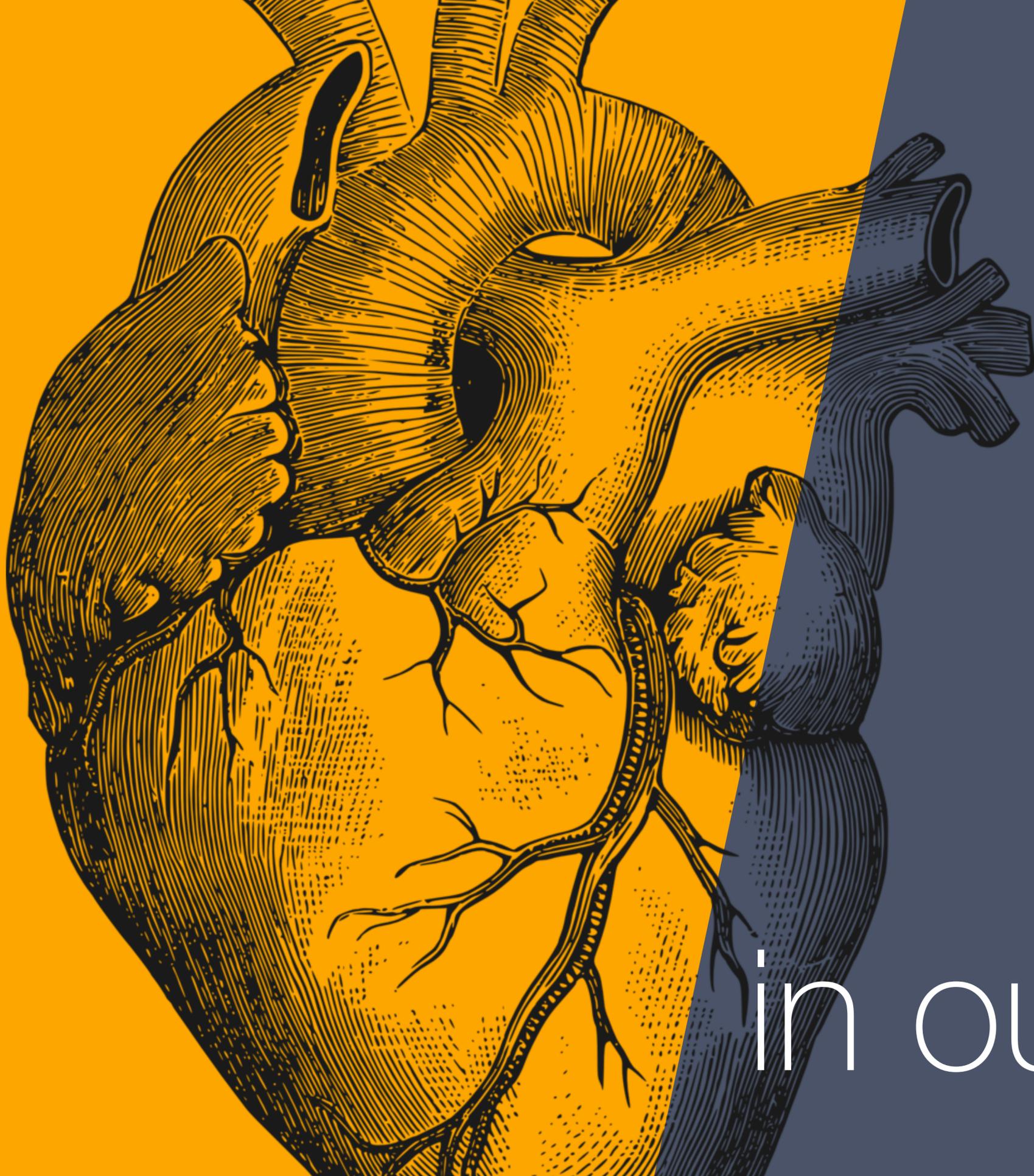


# THE HEART — ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

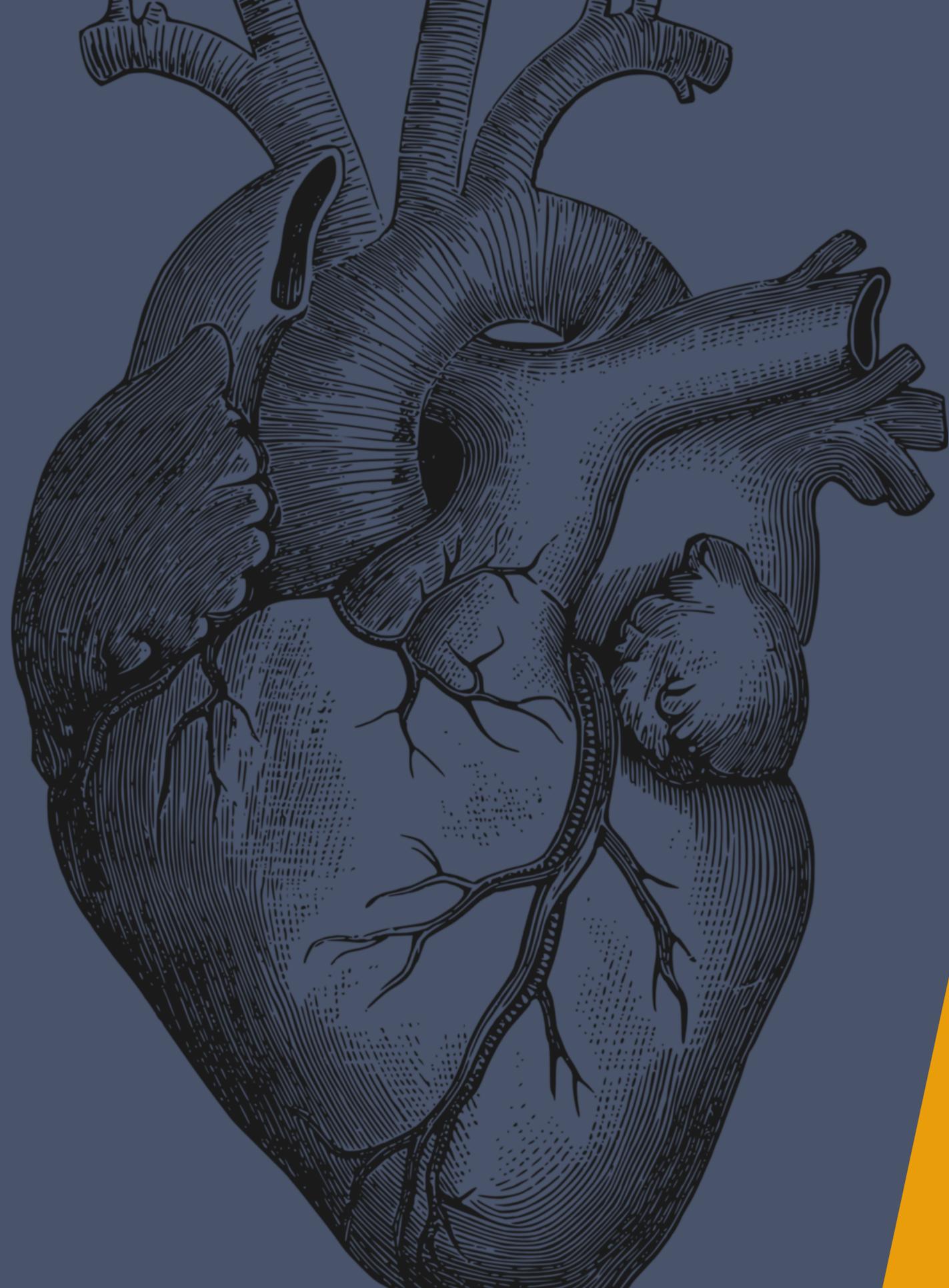
Our hidden, innermost self,  
where our deepest hopes,  
desires, commitments and  
loves are found.

“These men have set  
up idols in their hearts.”

EZEKIEL 14:3



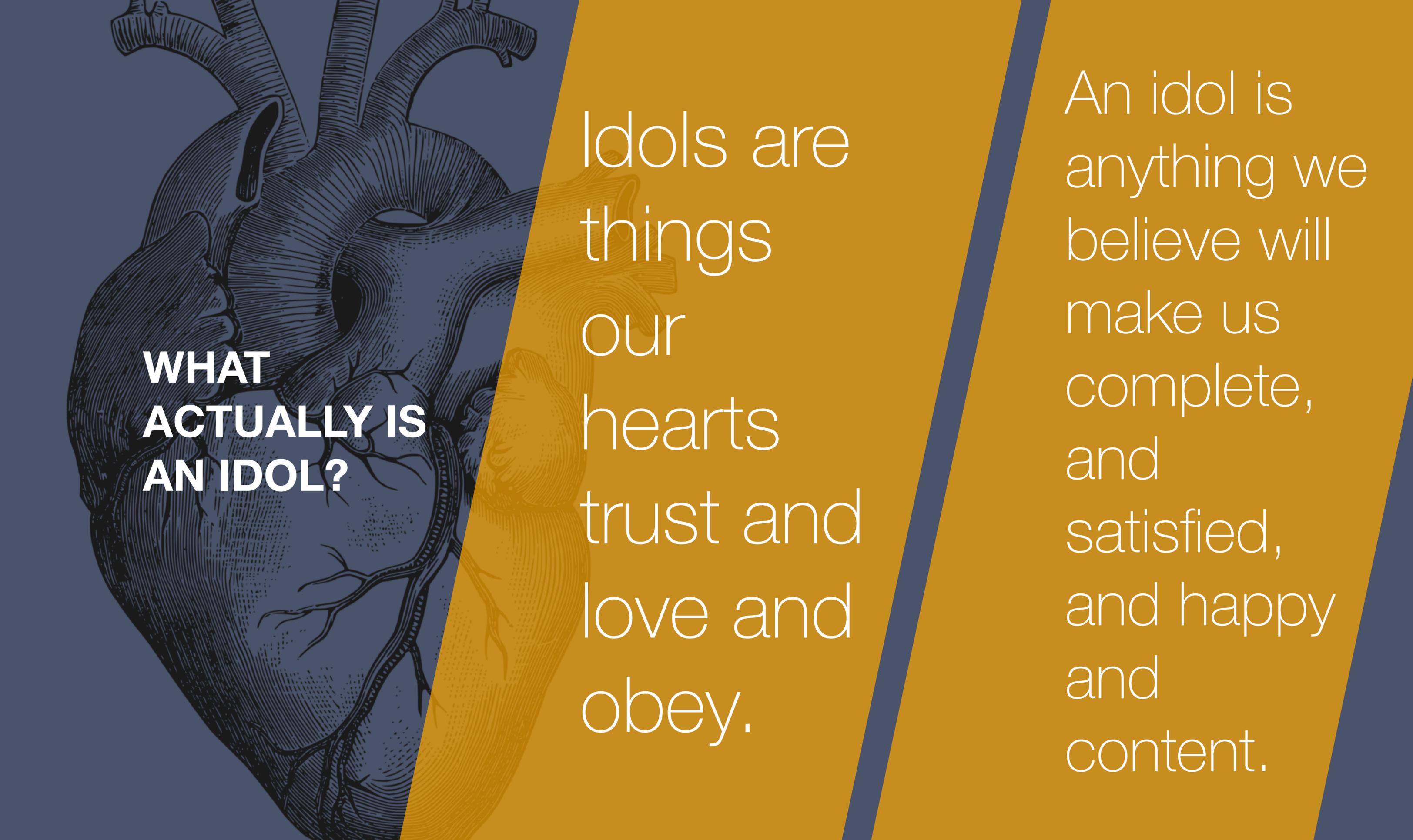
We set  
up idols  
in our hearts



What are  
idols?



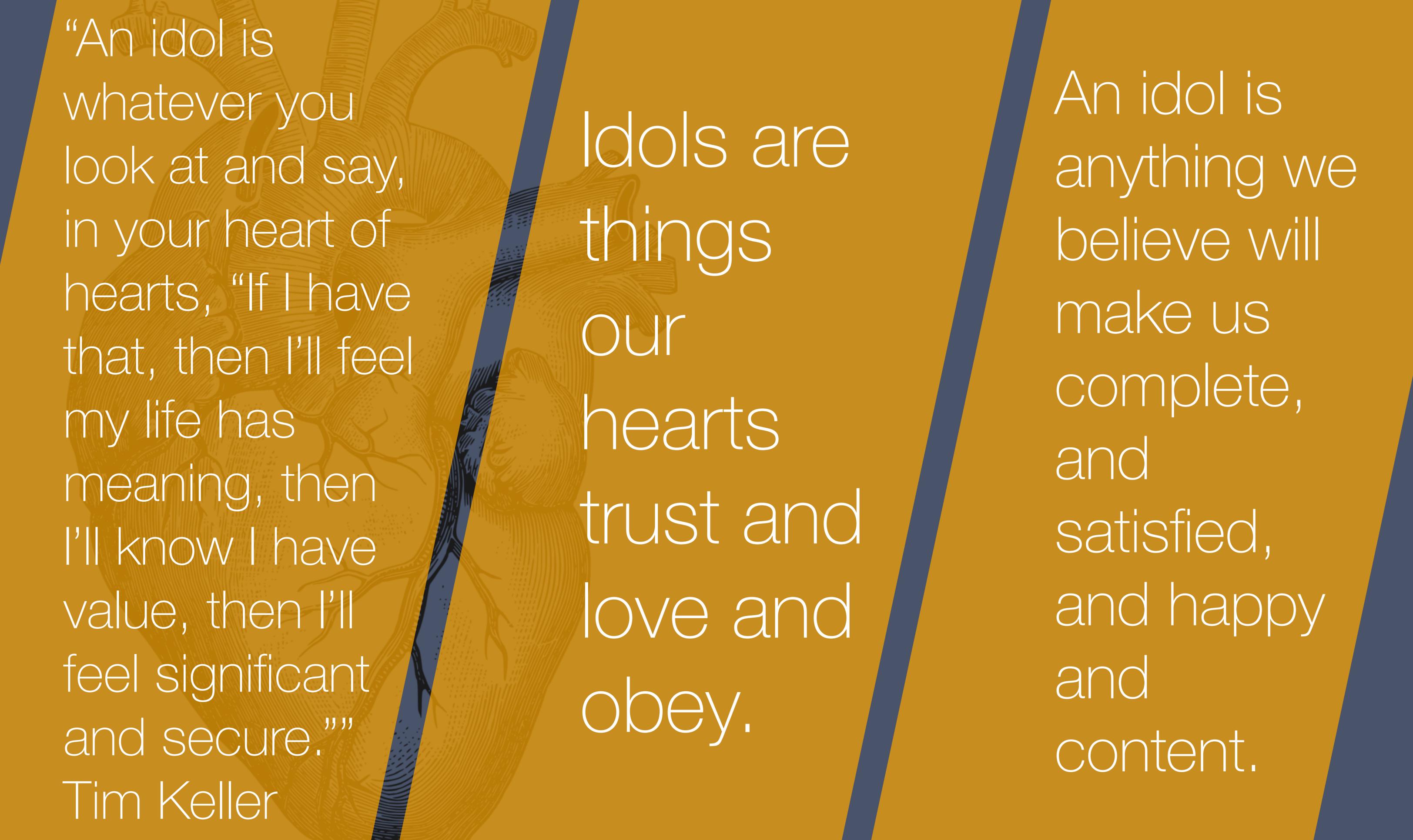
14



**WHAT  
ACTUALLY IS  
AN IDOL?**

Idols are things our hearts trust and love and obey.

An idol is anything we believe will make us complete, and satisfied, and happy and content.



“An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, “If I have that, then I’ll feel my life has meaning, then I’ll know I have value, then I’ll feel significant and secure.””

Tim Keller

Idols are things our hearts trust and love and obey.

An idol is anything we believe will make us complete, and satisfied, and happy and content.

## **AN IDOL IS ANYTHING**

- ▶ We love more than God
- ▶ We obey more than God
- ▶ We treat as more important than God
- ▶ Our hearts are more committed to than God
- ▶ We believe is more ultimate than God





“Dear children, keep  
yourselves from idols.”  
**1 JOHN 5:21**

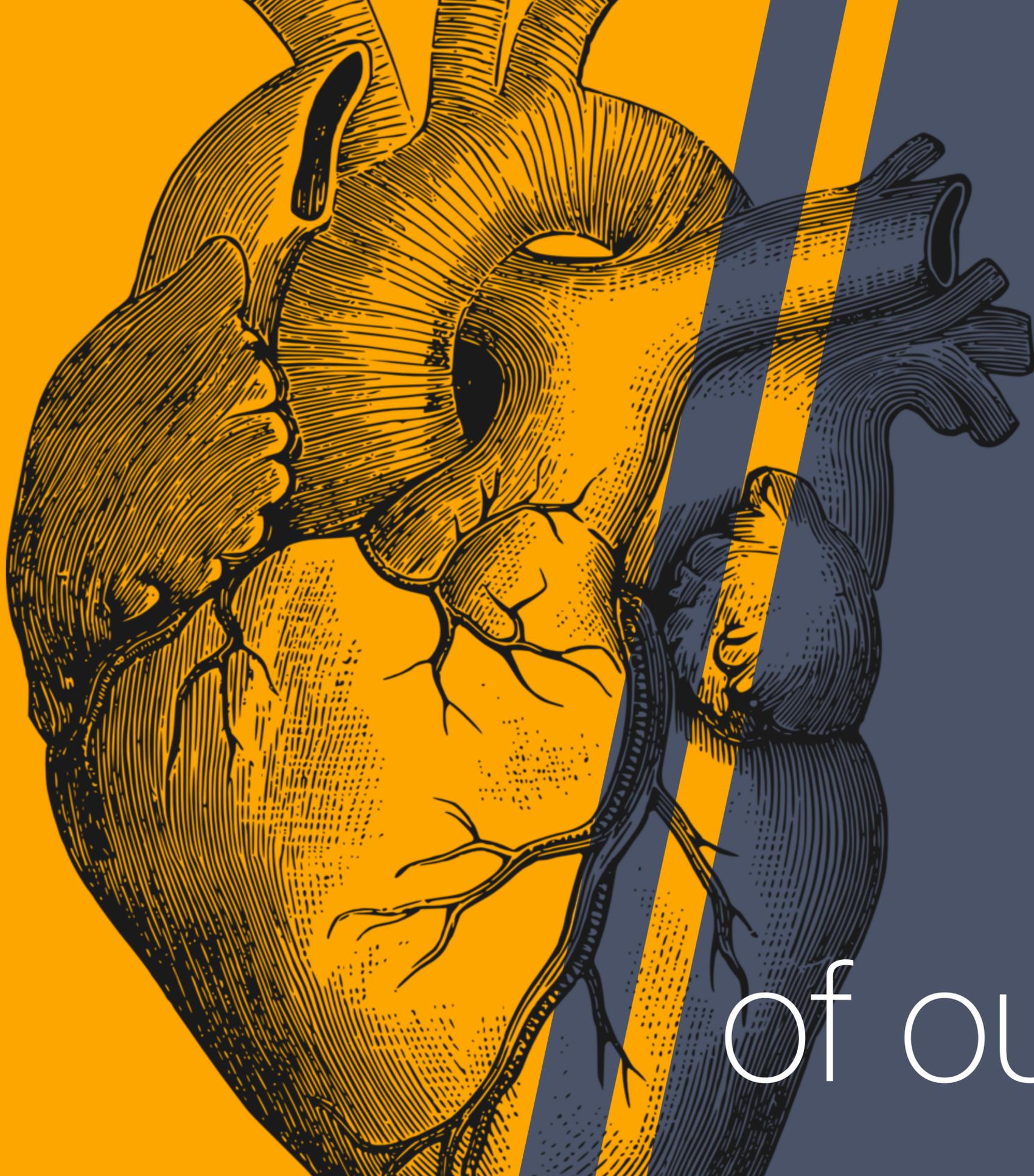
“Repent! Turn from  
your idols . . .”  
EZEKIEL 14:6



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How do  
we detect  
the idols  
of our hearts?

## **4 WAYS TO DETECT OUR IDOLS - TIM KELLER**

- ▶ Look in your imagination
- ▶ Look at your spending
- ▶ Look at what you're living for
- ▶ Look at your strongest and most uncontrollable emotions

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says:  
when any of the Israelites set up idols in  
their hearts and put a wicked stumbling-  
block before their faces and then go to a  
prophet, I the Lord will answer them  
myself in keeping with their great idolatry.  
5 I will do this to recapture the hearts of  
the people of Israel, who have all  
deserted me for their idols.”

**EZEKIEL 14:4-5**



How  
does God  
recapture  
our hearts?



A painting depicting Noah's Ark, showing people inside the vessel and animals outside. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent yellow rectangle. The text "God recaptures our hearts by offering us a better song" is written in white, sans-serif font across the center of the yellow area.

God recaptures our hearts by  
offering us a better song



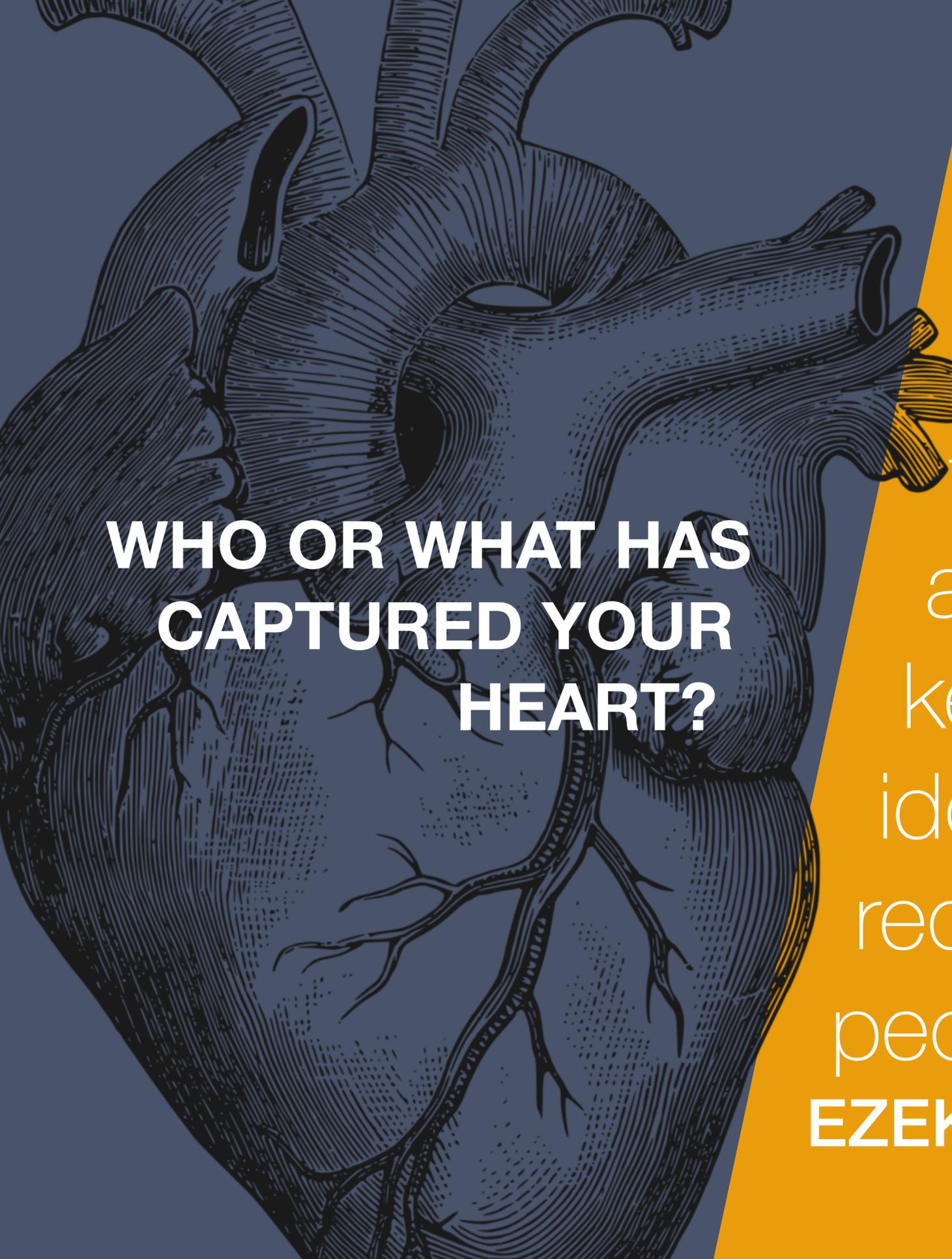
## **IDOLS**

- ▶ Are weak
- ▶ Will enslave



## **GOD**

- ▶ Is strong
- ▶ Gives freedom



**WHO OR WHAT HAS  
CAPTURED YOUR  
HEART?**

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: when any of the Israelites set up idols in their hearts... I the Lord will answer them myself in keeping with their great idolatry. I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel.”

**EZEKIEL 14:4-5**