

## Chapter 12 Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Mehl included Chapter 11, “The Mess Outside of Us,” before Chapter 12, “The Mess Inside of Us”?
2. What is the misunderstanding of sin that Mehl addresses on pages 165-167? How will we address sin differently with a correct understanding?
3. On pages 167-171, Mehl addresses the fundamental issue of worship. After highlighting/underlining the pages, pick three quotes/ideas that you think would be helpful when you explain to someone how the heart of a Christian works.
4. Pages 171-173 require (and rewards!) some careful thinking as Mehl tries to explain the connection between self-worship, desires and idolatry. Can you use the picture on 172 to explain those connections?
5. On page 173, Mehl says “sometimes [people] will abandon their idols simply because their desires have changed.” An example he gives is someone who swaps the idol of alcohol for career success. What does humans’ capacity for this kind of “swapping” reveal about the way we worship? Have you ever swapped idols in the pursuit of change?
6. On pages 174-175, Mehl uses several examples to show how sinful behaviors, thoughts and emotions are the result of idolatry, the setting up of “mini-gods.” Pick a sinful behavior, thought or emotion you are struggling with or have struggled with in the past. Following Mehl’s pattern (Self-worship - Desire - Creating a mini-god - Trying to satisfy the mini-god - Sinful result), what were your desire(s), what mini-god did you set up, and what did your mini-god demand? Please consider sharing your exercise with the group! (It’s ok if this is challenging. We can get better at knowing ourselves with practice!)
7. Why is it loving to help people understand their internal mess of idolatry?