

CRYSTAL FOUNTAINS AND SLIMY CISTERNS

“I can't stop”



Jeremiah 2:13

“My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”

Broken cisterns?





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Where do you turn?



The sponge





The message of redemption

**“Since thou wast precious in My sight,
thou hast been honourable, and I
have loved thee.” Isaiah 43:4**



“The glory of God is to be revealed in the creation of man in God's image and in his redemption. One soul is of more value than a world.”
God's Amazing Grace, p. 246

What is an idol?

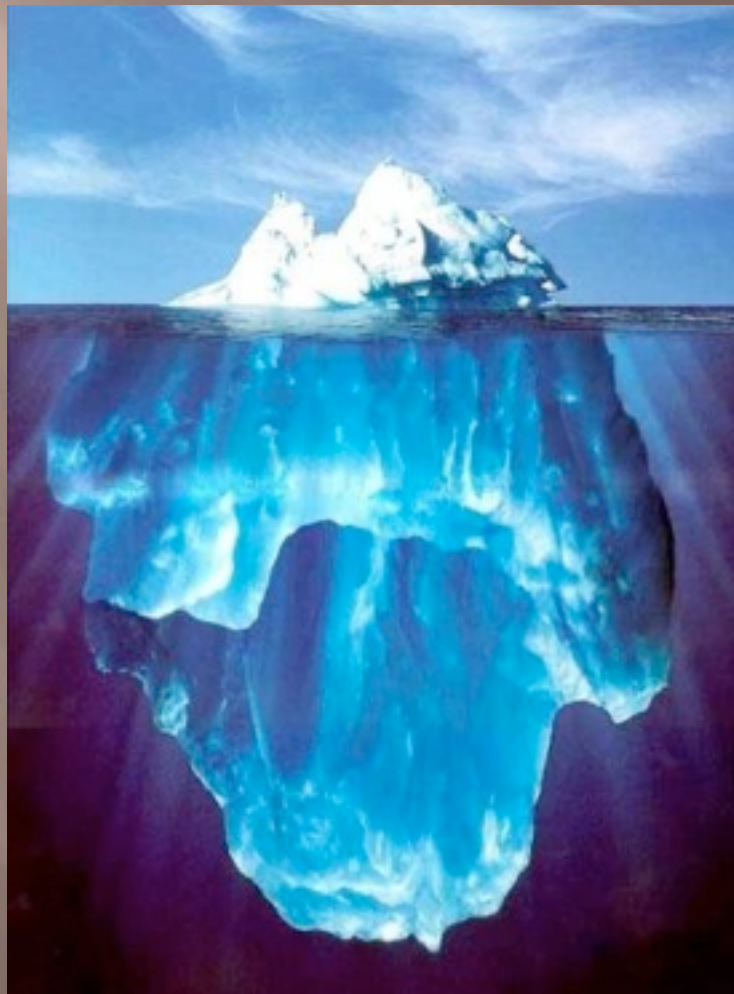
**Anything that rules my heart
instead of God.**



Satisfy the wants

“Christ alone can satisfy that sense of want in the human soul. His gracious invitation reaches down even to our time. From the Fountain of life the cry still goes forth to a lost world, ‘Come unto me and drink.’”
Review and Herald, February 28, 1882

“My counselor says I’m
codependent”



“Most men who have been damaged in childhood do not develop an addiction to relationships...they usually try to protect themselves and avoid their pain through pursuits which are more external than internal, more impersonal than personal. Their tendency is to become obsessed with work, sports, or hobbies.” *Women Who Love Too Much*, p. xv

“The woman’s tendency is to become obsessed with a relationship – perhaps with just such a damaged and distant man.” Ibid., p. xv

Don't lie to yourself

“The person who manages to deny his pain behind a façade of togetherness is dangerously vulnerable to developing compulsively sinful habits because he’s not dealing a deathblow to the wrong strategies that block his enjoyment of the Lord. The unrecognized and largely unfelt ache in his soul still demands relief. He’s ripe for being hooked.” *Inside Out*, p. 101

Broken cisterns

- Entertainment
- Food
- Sex
- Competition
- Control
- Virtuosity
- Self-protection
- Idolatrous relationships (“codependency”)

Addictions

- ▣ Undesirable behaviors are usually the fruits of deeper sin issues.
- ▣ We crave glory, comfort, pain relief, or something else to satisfy the thirst that only God can quench.

Identify the broken cisterns

- ▣ Prayerfully evaluate:
 - Where you turn when you feel “down”
 - What satisfaction that idol brings
 - The “root” sin, not just “fruits”
- ▣ Rely on God’s ability to satisfy the thirst of your heart!

