

## e-KardíaGram

## Anatomy

*Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands. They have mouths but cannot speak, and eyes but cannot see. They have ears but cannot hear, and noses but cannot smell. They have hands but cannot feel, and feet but cannot walk, and throats but cannot make a sound. And those who make idols are just like them, as are all who trust in them. O Israel, trust the LORD! He is your helper and your shield. (Psalm 115:4–9 NLT)*

In both my classroom and my clinic at the university where I work you will find many anatomical models. Some are entire skeletons, others are single extremities, and still others show the inner workings of joints. Some have pliable portions to exhibit muscles, tendons, ligaments, and cartilage. My favorite model is one of a lumbar spine, pelvis, and hip. Attached to its bones are rubberized, realistic looking iliacus, psoas major, and quadratus lumborum muscles, sacroiliac ligaments, and more. But, when I show the model to patients, it just sits there motionless until I demonstrate it. As you can imagine, that's true of all of my models: they move...but never by themselves. They have no life at all.

I have visited several countries where I watched with a broken heart as scores of people bowed, cried, lit candles, or purposely inflicted pain on themselves before a statue or some other inanimate, wholly ridiculous, yet depressingly irresistible representation of a deity. You and I may not kneel before statues of precious metals or worship artifacts, but we must continually ask whether or not there is some other less obvious and more insidious distraction of our attention from the God of the universe. Psalm 115 tells us that if we make idols, or even trust in them, then we are just like them. Whoa. Today's idols are just like the models in my clinic: even if the anatomy's right, the function is just not there. Maybe you prefer reading the newspaper over reading the Bible. Maybe you'd rather interact with your smartphone than interact with God. What interests you more than Him? I have a few things on my list, and you probably do, too. True answers come when we ask the true God, so inquire. —Jeff Russell