# The Case for Condemnation Hosea 2:2-13

"Every one of us is, even from his mother's womb, a master craftsman of idols."

-John Calvin

I. An Unfaithful People

# II. An Ungrateful People

III. A Hypocritical People

### **Small Group Study Questions**

#### Into the Bible

 Worshipping the Ba'als (idols brought in from their Canaanite neighbors) was done primarily as fertility rites to ensure better harvests, flocks and herds. Why was this both faithless and unnecessary on Israel's part? (Psalm 104:27-28, Psalm 107:37-38, Deuteronomy 11:14)

2. Apparently hedging their bets in this regard, the Israelites continued to offer sacrifices to Yahweh as well as the gods of their neighbors. What does God say about this practice? (1 Samuel 15:22, Jeremiah 7:22-24) How is this same theme continued in the New Testament teachings of Christ? (John 14:15)

## **Application**

3. A prominent theme in Hosea is Israel's prolonged faithlessness in pursuing other gods rather than the covenant-keeping God. God in contrast is faithful in keeping his covenant with them. But that meant he would of necessity execute judgment for breaking it. (Leviticus 26:14-39, Deuteronomy 28:15-68) Thankfully, God continues to be faithful in keeping the new covenant established in Christ. What is the basis of this covenant and the consequences for sin under this covenant? (Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 John 1:9)

#### **For Families**

4. Talk with your children about the importance of God's faithfulness to us.