

The Trivialization of God

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My Father's House

The Dangerous Illusion of a Manageable Deity

A long time ago God made man into His image and likeness. And, for almost six millenia, mankind has been trying to return the compliment. Yet the call to God's holiness remains. St. Peter extols us to seek that perfection without which no one can see God. Jesus exhorts us to be holy, as your Heavenly Father is holy. Paul tells us to imitate him as he imitates Jesus.

The Indwelling Spirit

Jesus and the Father have given to us the Holy Spirit so that we may think as They think, love as They love, act as They act and be as They are. Only by the Holy Spirit, therefore, can we have God's wisdom, love and power. Only by this grace can we live supernatural lives -- Godlike lives. However, this calls for surrender, commitment, reformation, conversion -- a true dying to self. The cost of holiness is high. In the end it will cost us everything -- that is, the total surrender of all we have and are.

Most Unwilling

Most people, Jesus intimates, when he says, "The road to heaven is narrow and few there are that find it" -- find this price too high and follow the low road where the flesh and not the Spirit is in control. The response is the Scottish song, "You take the high road and I'll take the low road." They want their cake and to eat it too. They want a God who is not so holy nor demanding of them. They want a God who will suit their own interests, a God to their own making. So with less than inspired minds and hearts, they try to remake God, to whittle Him down to something more manageable -- to put God into their own theological boxes.

Ways of "Improving" God

Some try to invent a God who does not demand holiness, but only a partial response. Martin Luther did this by saying that all God expects from us is faith alone -- no love or hope, no self-denial or mortification, no life of poverty, chastity or obedience; only faith. This is a God of his own devising, and yet millions followed Luther into this heresy. Calvin recreated a God of false predestination, a God who decides, independent of our response, who it is who goes to heaven and who it is who goes to hell. This new God also is not calling us forth in faith, hope, love and obedience. It is not the God revealed by the Church nor the scriptures.

Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin created a God who helps those who help themselves -- a God who rewards man for trying to save himself by pulling himself up from his own bootstraps. This new God of self help has many millions of followers. Go into any library or bookstore and look at all the spiritual self-help books. This, too, is a God of our own devising. It is not the God who graces us with all of His gifts if only we surrender to Him and obey His commands.



Americanism

Americans invent a God who is on our side, a God who believes as we believe, that we are the best nation on the face of the earth. This new God, therefore, wants us to live in the first world, squander the world's goods, create a trillion dollar military force, separate state from church, abort our children, have schools where the mention of His name is outlawed. This new God wants us to be a nation where pornography replaces purity, divorce replaces stable marriages, where a woefully divided Christianity has lost both unity and power. This God would be white, middle class, Republican and live in the suburbs. He would not be the God of peace, the poor, the inner city, the disadvantaged, or of the minorities. His ministers would wear fancy threads, gold Rolex watches, appear on TV often, and would support disunity in the Church and faith without obedience.

The God of Disunity

Many followers of God believe in a God of disunity -- a God who blessed Martin Luther and other so-called reformers who have divided and splintered His Church into over 26,000 different denominations and churches so that it is no longer possible for the average Christian to know which is His Church, that is, the one founded by His Son Jesus upon Peter as the Rock. Most Christians insult His wisdom by saying, "It doesn't really matter what Jesus did because the Church founded by His Son is no better nor worse than a denomination founded by a sinful human being." Most Christians say, "but one church is as good as another," and that their God endorses what they do by appealing to His Book. Most Christians say, "It doesn't really matter about founding His Church on Peter, or giving us His mother to be our mother or giving us His body and blood in the Mass through the Eucharist." Many Christians, thus, make a God not a faithful spouse who loves His Church as His Bride, but an unfaithful lover who has more spouses than Solomon.

The god of Immorality

Some Christians say that God blesses the act of sodomy even within the ministers of His gospel. Many say that He condones artificial birth control and condoms, as well as the subsequent abortion - that is the ultimate birth control technique. Many say that this holy God allows divorce and remarriage and sex before marriage, provided that it is done with "love". We hear about this god even on the talk shows.

The Prosperity God

Many Christians believe in the god of the prosperity gospel, the god who wants us rich while four-fifths of the world goes hungry. Some TV evangelists promote this god and tell us that if we promote their ministries, this new god will make us prosper.

So Many New gods

Yes, we have so many new gods who are easy to live with, who think and act like us, who are cut down to our size -- god's who fit the contours of our individualistic, separatist, materialistic and hedonistic culture.

Sins Against the Holy Spirit

Yet, Jesus certainly warned us not to sin against the Holy Spirit. He declared this sin alone as unpardonable. He came as a light. He founded His Church upon Peter as the pillar and standard of truth (1 Tim 3:15), orthodoxy, and unity. He gave us His gospel and His Holy Spirit who would lead us into all truth. That's quite a combination -- His Son, His Church, His Gospel and His Spirit. These would allow God to be God, His demands to be holy, His truth to be one, His Church to stay united and faithful to His demands of unity, holiness, universality and apostolicity. Yes, His Church would be One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

Enter Man

Then man-made god's appeared everywhere so that today, there are many gods -- gods who support everything that man does. There are gods who are pro-choice, pro-abortion, pro-birth control, pro-divorce, pro-infidelity.

More Sins Against the Spirit

Young people say that fornication is no sin if they love one another. "Don't you see, God is Love," they say. "Therefore, since love is responsible, God is responsible. No sin. It is the way God made us." Some TV evangelists say it doesn't matter what church you belong to as long as Jesus is Lord. Their God blesses the disunity and disharmony in the body of Christ. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one. They redefine oneness; and in this way, once again, it would be God's fault.

Forms of Sins Against the Spirit

Whenever we call a good, bad or something bad, good, we sin against the spirit of truth and unity. If we say something is true that God says is untrue, we create a false God. If we say something is one when God says it is divided, we create a false god.

Rationalization

If we place reason above faith or give reasons for our falsity or sin, in effect, we are blaming God. That is, we are saying that this is the way it should be or the way that God wants it. Fornication, adultery, artificial birth control, divorce, disunity, heresy, schism, separation of church and state, militarism, hedonism, individualism, Americanism, stealing, sodomy, radical feminism, all fly in the face of an all-holy God. To give in to them is sinful -- most times, seriously sinful. Such sins call for repentance, confession, retribution, and sincere conversion. But to justify them and to rationalize them is much worse. To sin is one thing, to justify it is worse. When I sin and admit it is a sin, there is hope and cause for repentance. But when I sin and call it good, I see no reason for conversion or repentance. And, in fact, I make God in His goodness an ally and an excuse for my sin. To be promiscuous is one thing. To call it love is to sin against the Holy Spirit who is love. To kill 450,000 more or less innocent Iraqi boys, women, and children as we Americans did in the Gulf War is horrendous. To call that war just is a sin against the Spirit who is the Spirit of love, forgiveness and peace.

Other Excuses

To divide the Church founded by Christ into 26,000 other churches is unconscionable. To say that one is as good as the other or that you belong to a New Testament church, when, in fact, your denomination was started by a man in late medieval or modern times, is simply a lie. To



justify such disunity makes God a partner in it. Jesus, when He founded His Church upon Peter, declared that *the forces of death's realm shall not prevail against it* and prayed that His followers would be one as He and the Father are one -- that is, one flock and one shepherd.

God Is Not ...

God is not the God who endorses heresy, divorce, division, divided families, or divided churches. God is not the God of little theologians, humanists and politicians. He is not the God of modern TV, modern politics, the first world, the do-it-yourself practices, the singers of "My Way." He is not the God of rebellion, protestation, militarism, radical feminism.

God Is ...

God is the God revealed in Jesus, the fullness in holiness and compassion, the Alpha and the Omega, the eternal high priest, the savior, the giver of the spirit of true unity, holiness, purity and peace. He is the God revealed so fully in Jesus that He who sees Jesus sees also the Father.

Jesus Is ...

Jesus is the total revelation of the Father.

Jesus is the Advocate of the Father.

The Alive For Evermore

The Almighty God

The Alpha and the Omega

The All-Together Loving One

The Author of Our Faith and Salvation.

The Anointed Son of God

The Amen

Jesus Is ...

The Babe of Bethlehem

The Bearer of Glory

The Beloved Son of God

The Bread of Life

The Brightness of the Father's Glory

Jesus Is ...

The Captain of God's Army

The Carpenter

The Chief Cornerstone

The Chosen Son of God

The Christ

The Comforter

The Conceived of the Holy Spirit

The Counselor

The Crown of Glory

Jesus Is ...

The Dayspring

The Desire of the Nations

The Door of the Sheepfold

The Dwelling Place

Jesus Is ...

Emmanuel

The Equal With God

Eternal Life

Eternal God

Everlasting Life

Expressed Image of God's Person

Jesus Is ...

The Face of God

The Faithful and True Son

The Faithful High Priest

The Finisher of Our Faith

The First-Born Son of God

The Fountain of Life

The Friend Who Sticks Closer Than a Brother

The Fruit of Mary Womb

Jesus Is ...

The Gift of God

The Glory as the Only Begotten Son of the Father

The Glorious God

The Good Master

The Good Shepherd

Greater Than the Angels

The God of Youth

Jesus Is ...

The Head of the Body

The Helper

The Hidden Manna

The High Priest

The Highway To Holiness

The Holy One

The Hope of Glory

The Horn of Salvation

The Husband of the Church

Jesus Is ...

The Great I AM

The Image of the Invisible God

The Immanuel

Jesus Is ...

The Name Above All Names

Jesus, Son of God

Jesus of Nazareth

The Jew

Joseph's Son



The Judge of the Earth
The Just One

Jesus Is...

The Keeper of the Kingdom
The King Eternal
The King Invisible
The King of All the Earth
The King of Glory
The King of King and Lord of Lords
The King of Peace

Jesus Is ...

The Lamb
The Last
The Lawgiver
The Light
The Lily of the Valley
The Lion of the Tribe of Judah
The Lord of Lord
The Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus Is ...

The Man Approved of God
The Man of Sorrows
The Master
The Mediator of the Better Covenant
The Messiah
The Morning Star

Jesus Is ...

The Name Above All Names
The Nazarean

Jesus Is ...

The Offspring of David
The Omega
The Only Begotten Son of God

Jesus Is ...

The Passover
The Pillar of Fire
The Perfect Man
The Precious Cornerstone
The Priest Forever
The Prophet

Jesus Is ..

The Rabbi
The Ransom For Many
The Restorer of Life
The Righteous God

The Rock of Ages
The Root of Jesse

Jesus Is ...

The Sacrifice For Our Sins
The Savior

The Seat of Abraham
The Shepherd of Israel
The Son of Mary

The Stone Which the Builders Rejected

Jesus Is ...

The Teacher
The True Bread From Heaven
The True God
The True Vine

Jesus Is ...

The undefiled
The Unspeakable Gift
The Upholder of All Things

Jesus Is ...

The Veil
The Victory
The Vine
The Voice of God

Jesus Is ...

The Way
The Wisdom of God
The Witness
The Word of Life

Jesus Is ...

The Young Child
And the Zeal of the Lord of Hosts.

The Reward and Punishment of God

In the plan of God, His reward and punishment for each of His children is the same. God gives to each of us what we want. If we choose a God of holiness, sacrifice, purity, virtue, and heaven, that is our reward. If we want a god of sin, separation, servitude, and hell, that will be our punishment.

Final Prayer

O Heavenly Father, give to each one of your children insights into your wisdom, holiness and love. So fill our minds with your wisdom through meditation and prayer that we may think as Jesus inspires us to think, love as He inflames our hearts to love, and act as He empowers us to act, in Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

