

Making God In Our Own Image

Joe Slater

On the sixth day, “*God created man in His own image*” (Genesis 1:27). Not long afterward, Adam and Eve marred that holy image by sinning (Genesis 3). From then until now, people have tended to make their own gods in their own image, rather than seeking to be renewed to His image. Pagan idolatry graphically illustrates this truth: “*Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things*” (Romans 1:22, 23).

I seriously doubt that any member of this congregation would actually bow down in worship to a carved or molded image. Still, we possess that tendency to modify our concept of God to fit our own wishes and ideas. Whenever we surrender to that temptation, we become guilty of idolatry just as surely as if we carved an image out of a log and bowed before it.

The pagans invented gods and goddesses who acted like sinful people – fighting, murdering each other, lusting after and seducing each other, lying, and being gluttons. Serving such deities required no particular improvements in the worshippers’ behavior. While we might reject such extremes, we share the pagans’ guilt when we modify God’s will as revealed in Scripture, so that it aligns with own pre-conceived ideas.

Someone says, “I know what the Bible teaches, but I just don’t believe God would send anyone to Hell.” That person has made a god in his own image. Another claims: “God simply doesn’t care about instrumental music in worship.” What he really means is, “I don’t care about it, so God must not care either.” Someone else says, “Surely God would not condemn a person who

believes in Jesus simply because he hasn’t been baptized!” Again, the unspoken message is, “I wouldn’t do it, so God wouldn’t either.” Evidently this person thinks he is more gracious than the God of the Bible!

Brethren, God has revealed Himself in His word. Any time we start telling God what to think and what to do, we’re in trouble. “*For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?*” (Romans 11:34). By His grace, God has provided a way for a sinner to be “*renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*” (Colossians 3:10). Let us follow that wonderful way, rather than making our own god in our own image.

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Why Adults Should Attend Bible Class

- It helps you put God’s kingdom first.
- It helps you gain knowledge about God.
- It helps you possess the mind of Christ.
- It helps you influence others for good.
- It provides fellowship with other Christians.
- It strengthens your faith in Jesus as Lord.
- It provides nutrition for your soul.
- It helps you to obey God’s command to know His will.
- It helps you to be God’s servant (workman).
- It helps you to be a better guide to your family.
- It helps you to be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks a reason for your faith.
- It helps you to be prepared for the judgment.

--via Pauls Valley, OK

No Disappearing Act

"For the Lord loves justice, and forsakes not his saints; they are preserved forever" (Psalm 37:28).

I have lost my friends, Jim and Jane. No, they didn't die, at least I don't think they did. I just can't find them. The Christmas card I sent came back. My emails return as undeliverable. Their phone number doesn't work. It seems they have disappeared.

Our friends are ties that bind us to this earth. We hold onto them and love them. We depend on them. Yet at times those bonds are cut and the ties are broken. Friends die. They move. Responsibilities of family and other friends pull their attention away. At such times, we may feel forsaken and unloved.

We have a friend who will never leave us nor forsake us. For thousands of years, since the beginning of time, He has shown His steadfastness and His love. With constant care, like an earthly father caring for his young, He led and guided His people. They rebelled, and He punished them, but He did not leave them. When they persisted in sin, He did the only thing He could do. He gave His Son.

"I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," God tells us through His Son. *"I will never forsake you."* Times get tough, and our friends leave us, but God is still there. We sin, and He takes us back and forgives us. We may think the world is against us, and maybe it is; but God is always for us. We are more than conquerors through him that loved us. When we love Him and trust Him, He will keep us and help us. He is a Friend who will never pull a disappearing act on us.

-- Donna Richmond Wittlif (Denver, CO)