

## What Distorts How We See God?

Distortion doesn't happen to us, it happens because of us

**We have allowed our understanding to play a part** - Prov 3:5-7 - 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

- Trust God
- Always Check with God
- Revere God

**Simply put we stopped worshipping God as GOD** - Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him AS GOD nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

**\* The reason people get disappointed in God & frustrated with God is because they want God to pursue them and their desires and not them pursuing God!**

- Humans stopped searching for God
- Churches stopped teaching God
- Parents stopped raising in God
- Man stopped living for God
- Man started living for God their way

**Fundamentally, it reveals a heart lacking reverence**

Heb 12:28-29 - 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably WITH REVERENCE AND AWE, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

Phil 2:12-13 - 12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

**Man stopped just being in the world but strived to be PART OF the world** - 1 John 2:15-17 - 15 **DO NOT love the world or anything in the world**. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For **everything in the world** — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — **COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD**. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

**Allowing himself to be influenced by the world** - James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to KEEP ONESELF from being polluted by the world.

**When what the world says resonate with someone what does it say about that someone?** - 1 John 4:4-6 - 4 You, dear children, **are from God and have overcome them**, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore **speak from the viewpoint of the world**, and the world listens to them. 6 **We are from God**, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. **THIS IS HOW WE RECOGNIZE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND THE SPIRIT OF FALSEHOOD**.

**Still wanting to be called Christians, man distorted the foundation** - 2 Tim 4:3-4 - 3 For the time WILL COME when men will NOT PUT UP WITH SOUND doctrine. Instead, to **SUIT THEIR OWN DESIRES**, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. 4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

**It's distorted by our human value system** - Phil 3:7-8 - 7 But whatever was to MY PROFIT I now consider loss FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

**Deception is a byproduct to those who REFUSE to love the Truth** - 2 Thess 2:9-12 - 9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, 10 and in every sort of evil **that deceives those who are perishing**. They perish **because they refused to love the truth and so be saved**. 11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie 12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

**Minds are on the wrong thing** - Matt 16:23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the **things of God**, but the **things of men**."

**Not following the initial requirement to be a true follower** - Matt 16:24-26 - 24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?"

## What MUST be done for the sake of clarity?

**We must get and stay back on the TRUE Path** - John 14:6-7 - 6 Jesus answered, "I am THE way and THE truth and THE life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 **If you really knew me**, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

**\*We got rid of getting to know Christ and started forming Christ into someone we desired to know**

**Though we are different, we must make unity a necessity** -Phil 2:2-3 - 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

**\*We must realize the things that make us different must take a back seat to what makes us the Same...CHRIST!**

**We MUST change our focus** - Heb 10:37-39 - 37 For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. 38 But **MY RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH**. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." 39 But we are not of those **who shrink back and ARE DESTROYED**, but of those who believe and are saved.

**We must consciously reset our value system which distorted our purpose** - Matt 6:19-21 - 19 "**DO NOT store up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But **STORE UP for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For **where your treasure is**, there your heart **WILL BE** also