

Misrepresenting God

We are to be representatives of God to the world - 2 Cor 5:20-21 - 20 WE ARE therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: BE RECONCILED TO GOD. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(*We are to be a complete pass through of God's agenda, not adding or removing.)

We must be warned by how the false prophets of old would say things that God never said - Ezek 13:1-7 - The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: 'Hear the word of the Lord! 3 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing! 4 Your prophets, O Israel, are like jackals among ruins. 5 You have not gone up to the breaks in the wall to repair it for the house of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the Lord. 6 Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. They say, "The Lord declares," when the Lord has not sent them; yet they expect their words to be fulfilled. 7 Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, "The Lord declares," though I have not spoken?

The false prophet put God against them for misrepresenting Him - Ezek 13:8-9 - 8 "Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I AM AGAINST YOU, declares the Sovereign Lord. 9 My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign Lord.

The false teachers today are worthless in God's sight and they are a danger preying after God's people - 2 Peter 2:17-19- 17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them. 18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error. 19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

Moses and Aron were punished severely for misrepresenting God - Num 20:6-12- 6 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. 7 The Lord said to Moses, 8 "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. **Speak to that rock** before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." 9 So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. 10 He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" 11 Then Moses raised his arm and STRUCK THE ROCK TWICE with his staff. **Water gushed out,*** and the community and their livestock drank. 12 But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "**BECAUSE YOU DID NOT TRUST IN ME ENOUGH TO HONOR ME AS HOLY IN THE SIGHT OF THE ISRAELITES,** you will not bring this community into the land I give them." (*remember this)

Saul was severely reprimanded for misrepresenting God –

1 Sam 15:12-19- 12 Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, "Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal." 13 When Samuel reached him, Saul said, "The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions." 14 But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?" 15 Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest." 16 "**Stop!**" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied. 17 Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel. 18 And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' 19 **WHY DID YOU NOT OBEY THE LORD?**

1 Sam 15:26 But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the Lord, and **THE LORD HAS REJECTED YOU AS KING OVER ISRAEL!**"

Christians put self in danger of destruction when we misrepresent God with our bodies - 1 Cor 3:16-17 - 16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, **God WILL destroy him;** for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

We don't realize when we misrepresent His instruction, we could miss out on HIS blessings - Matt 6:31-33- 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But **SEEK FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS,** and all these things will be given to you as well*. 34 therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

*Don't mistake "desirable outcome" for "good representation", remember Moses and the rock

God is misrepresented because man doesn't see the true value in God - Matt 23:17-19 - 17 You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred? 18 You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' 19 You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred?.

Man has been going down the wrong path by saying "we worship God" while dangerously allowing the path to be redirected by man - Mark 7:6-8 - 6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' 8 You have LET GO of the commands of God and are HOLDING ON to the traditions of men."

We must know our roles in Christ before we can truly represent Christ correctly –

We are created to do "GOOD" works - Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus TO DO GOOD WORKS, which God prepared in advance for us to do

***This also means we must recognize what we are in Christ (Male, female, Leader, follower, Parent Child...) and act accordingly**

We must realize we are servants created to do our task and we must get out the way and allow God - 1 Cor 3:5-9 - 5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? ONLY SERVANTS, through whom you came to believe — **AS THE LORD** has assigned to each his task. 6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but GOD MADE IT GROW. 7 So **NEITHER** he who plants nor he who waters **IS ANYTHING**, but **ONLY GOD, WHO MAKES THINGS GROW**. 8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. 9 For **WE ARE GOD'S FELLOW WORKERS**; you are God's field, God's building.

We have to consciously cleanse ourselves to correctly be used by God and reverently represent Him–

2 Tim 2:20-21 - 20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for NOBLE purposes and some for IGNOBLE*. 21 **IF A MAN CLEANSSES HIMSELF FROM THE LATTER, HE WILL BE** an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

John 15:3 You are **already clean because of the word** I have spoken to you.

(*We are all going to be used by God if we like it or not, it is our choice what we are used for.)

2 Cor 7:1 - Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us PURIFY OURSELVES from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness OUT OF REVERENCE FOR GOD. **(* We are to act based on the Word concerning whatever the Word says is bad.)**

Ministries must look to please God not men in order to truly represent Him correctly –

1 Thess 2:3-6 - 3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are **NOT TRYING TO PLEASE MEN BUT GOD**, who tests our hearts. 5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed — God is our witness. 6 **WE WERE NOT LOOKING FOR PRAISE FROM MEN**, not from you or anyone else.

Gal 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I WOULD NOT BE A SERVANT OF CHRIST.

We Clearly represent him by following Him ONLY

Truly representing Him will be to obey Him - 1 John 2:5-6 - 5 But if anyone **OBEYS HIS WORD**, God's love is truly made complete in him. **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW** we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him MUST walk as Jesus did.

We must stop using our interpreted mystery to represent God - Matt 16:2-4 - 2 He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the SIGNS OF THE TIMES. 4 **A WICKED AND ADULTEROUS GENERATION LOOKS FOR A MIRACULOUS SIGN**, but **NONE WILL BE GIVEN** it except the sign of Jonah." Jesus then left them and went away.

We must GET RID of self and allow true renewal from God - Col 3:9-10 - 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

We must live being thankful and revering God - 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."

Next, we must live being responsible to God only - 2 Tim 2:15-18 - 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. 16 Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. 17 Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

All together; good representation is us shining our light pointing directly to God. - Matt 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and PRAISE YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.