

## Serving the only GOD

Believe it or not the God most people worship today is really not God but THEIR PERCEPTION of God

From the beginning man allowed "how he sees it" to distort the true relationship with God Ex 32:1-4 - When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us." As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." 2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. **THEN THEY SAID, "THESE ARE YOUR GODS, O ISRAEL, WHO BROUGHT YOU UP OUT OF EGYPT."**

- When we struggle with God when HE doesn't act the way that SEEMS RIGHT, but acts the way He says
- When people who say they are Godly, go against what God says (Saying, "I'm a good person"...)
- Putting words in God's mouth (Saying, "God is going to...")
- When we make anything equal to God or make something Godly when it is not from God.

Man worships God the way he wants and not on what God says - Matt 15:3-9 - 3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 **For God said,** 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 5 **But you say** that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,' 6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 8 "'These people **honor me with their lips,** but their **hearts are far from me.** 9 They **WORSHIP ME IN VAIN;** their teachings are but rules taught by men.'" "

- Break God's commands for man's traditions
- Nullify God's Word for man's traditions.
- Honor God with words but their lives display the opposite
- Overall worship is meaningless

God made it clear that the distortion of our relationship with HIM is man's fault, therefore man is paying for it - Rom 1:18-20 - 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness OF MEN who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because **GOD HAS MADE IT PLAIN TO THEM.** 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, BEING UNDERSTOOD FROM WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, so that men are without excuse.

\*Man's confusion is based on man allowing himself to be confused

Ways Man has distorted the relationship of God

**Those that know God don't treat HIM as GOD or thank HIM** - 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.

**Those that distort God's message, distort the messenger, and distort the entire worship process –**

Rom 1:25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

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.

**They do not value God** - Rom 1:28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to RETAIN the knowledge of God, ...

Because of man's distorted relationship with God, the wrath of God is displayed

**God gives man over to that which is destroying him** - Rom 1:24 **THEREFORE** God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

**He released and allowed man be taken over by deplorable desires** - Rom 1:26-27 - 26 **BECAUSE OF THIS,** God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

**He also released them to their corrupt ways of thinking-** Rom 1:28 ... **HE GAVE THEM OVER to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.**

**When Jesus returns, those in the wrong and distorted relationship are doomed for eternal punishment** - 2 Thess 1:8-9 - 8 He will punish those WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD and DO NOT OBEY THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

We must realize the problem is man

**THE ONLY Absolute Truth is Christ** - John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am **THE way** and **THE truth** and **THE life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

**We all have our own points of view, but it's usually dangerously wrong while treated as the absolute right** - Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

**We don't want to let go of our fleshly desires** - Col 3:5-6 - 5 **PUT TO DEATH**, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

**Our focus and priorities are distorted** - Phil 3:18-21 - 8 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. 20 But **OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN.** And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

- They are headed on a path to destruction
- They are led by their own appetite
- They Glorify what they should be ashamed of (Pride, Sexual immortality, selfish ambition, revenge...)

**God gave the answer to how to keep children in the right path for when they grow-up, unfortunately, the mark has been missed by a longshot –**

Prov 22:6 - **TRAIN a child in the way he should go,** and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

**We have wrong relationships and partnerships –**

1 Cor 15:33-34 - 33 **Do not be misled:** "Bad company corrupts good character." 34 **Come back to your senses** as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

2 Cor 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

- **Good to spend time with them, mandatory to be a Godly example**
- **Good to communicate with them, mandatory to speak Godliness**
- **Good to teach them how to mature in the world, mandatory to train them to be Godly in a corrupt world.**

**We are driven by the wrong purposes** - Gal 4:17-18 - 17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you [from us], so that you may be zealous for them. 18 It is fine to be zealous, PROVIDED THE PURPOSE IS GOOD, and to be so always and not just when I am with you.

**We just accept and don't check false teaching –**

Titus 1:10-16 - 10 For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach — and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." 13 This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth. 15 To **the pure,** all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They **claim to know God,** but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

2 Peter 2:1-2 - But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them — bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 **MANY WILL FOLLOW THEIR SHAMEFUL WAYS** and will bring the way of truth into disrepute.

**Unfortunately, many are living a lie, we have the ability to test** - 1 John 2:4-6 - 4 The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands IS A LIAR, and the truth is not in him. 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.

**Ensuring we are serving the true God**

**Lean on Godly wisdom not worldly wisdom** - 1 Cor 1:20-25 - 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but **we preach Christ crucified:** a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

**Make sure "MY VALUES" don't get in the way of how I see Christ** - Phil 3:7-11- 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 9 and **be found in him,** not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 **I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST** and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

**Live our lives in complete reverence of God and allow God to work** - 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.