

FAKE GODS

ser5014 True Christianity in a Deceived World, Pt 5

January 30, 2022 E & L

I. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Let's move forward by going back and looking at the criteria we used to define "fake religion."

We defined how to identify a false religion by asking *two* questions:

1. What is being worshipped?

Any religion whose god is the creation of man's imagination or human hands is a false religion.

2. Who is Christ?

Any religion that does not clearly state and believe that Jesus is God is a fake religion. Even if they believe in Jesus, if He's the wrong Jesus—what good does he do anyone? If Jesus is not God, then that religion is false.

B. Here's an interesting fact!

According to Lisbdnet.com, although there are an estimated eight to twelve thousand gods that have been worshipped throughout history, only nine different *types* of gods have been worshipped. By "types," the author is referencing "theological characteristics."

For instance, during the time of the Israelites, the Hittite's worshipped over one-thousand deities, the Egyptians

over 2,000 deities. Throughout history these deities included:

- the goddess of fertility (Aphrodite),
- the god of love,
- the god of creation,
- the god of vengeance,
- the god of war,
- the god of might (Hercules)
- the god of wine,
- the god of the afterlife,
- the god of written words,
- the god of medicine,
- the god of magic,
- the god of the woods (Diana of the Ephesians),
- and the list goes on.

Twelve thousand different names, but with similar characteristics.

Not to confuse you further, but if you Google “How many gods are there in Hinduism?” you will get answers anywhere from “Hinduism has only one god, Brahman, from whom all other Hindu gods are an expression” to “thirty-three million. “Crazy, right?”

C. The ten most popular gods in the world today, measured by number of followers are—let’s watch this edited video by Lenny Kenton.

(Video: *The Ten Most Popular Gods That People Worship*, by Leroy Kenton, YouTube. Edited—Approximately 5 minutes. <https://youtu.be/hY3fLyvOe00>)

NOTE: I cannot vouch for detailed accuracy in this video; Mr Kenton is a YouTuber 😊, but it serves us well for the sake of illustration.

II. (BOOK & LOOK) WHAT DOES GOD HAVE TO SAY ABOUT FAKE GODS?

A. Let's start at the beginning.

The very FIRST commandment God writes with His finger on stone is: "You shall have no other gods before Me." *Exodus 20:3* (show photo)



The next time we see God writing with His finger was on a palace wall, telling the Babylonian King Belshazzar that he was placed on a scale, weighed, came up short, and that very night his soul would be taken

from him. (*Daniel 5*) (show photo)

The next time we see God writing with His finger is in *John 9:1-11* when He sent the adulterer's accusers away, implementing *John 3:17*: (show photo, p4)

For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn it, but that the world through Him might be saved.

NOTE: I love the progression. First God gives us His command. Second, we see the just result of disobeying His command-- death. And, last, we see Him writing in sand, not stone.



Why? Because the waves will eventually wash away whatever is there. That was the purpose of Jesus' coming to wash away sins, never to be remembered again, for all who will receive Him as their personal Lord and Saviour.

Let's look at a few more scriptures.

Jeremiah 10: 2-5 (ESV)

Thus says the LORD: "Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, for the customs of the peoples are vanity.

NOTE: What were these nations doing? They were worshipping the sun, moon, stars, planets, the figures which make up the constellations. They worshipped what was in the heavens rather than He who created the heavens.

A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so

that it cannot move. Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”

NOTE: They created a fake religion around a fake god.

Hear the words of the LORD in *Ezekiel 16:17*

You have also taken your beautiful jewelry from My gold and My silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself male images and played the whore with them.

B. You say, “That’s Old Testament; people don’t live in that kind of ignorance today.”

Let’s go to the New Testament.

Paul writing to the *Romans* in *chapter 1 verses 22-32* (selected), speaking of times past and present, says

Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. ... therefore, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, [u]sexual immorality, wickedness [m]covetousness, [n]maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ [o]undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving [p]unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such

things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

NOTE: Does that sound like Old Testament times? New Testament times? Or, today? Sounds like January 2022 to me.

C. We don't think of sins as "worshipping other gods," but it is.

In **1 Corinthians 10:14** the Bible says,

"Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."

In **Colossians 3:5**, the Bible says,

Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:24**,

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

III. (TOOK) LET'S BE HONEST AND TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE GODS OF TODAY.

A. Could our gods be—remember, it's something we are devoted to other than the LORD.

1. Money—earning it or keeping it. Has that become your God?
2. Job or work?

3. Church—maybe at times as pastors our God is church rather than God?
4. Sports—football, hockey, wrestling, boxing, tennis, baseball, golfing on Sundays rather than going to church?

NOTE: We had a youth director who at one time lived in Dallas. He said men would come to church on Sunday nights with ear buds in their ears listening to the Dallas Cowboys game. Amazing when and where the “Amens” came in the service. LOL!

5. Food?
6. An addiction?
7. Hobbies?
8. Leisure?
9. Shore house?
10. Spouse?

NOTE: Recall when God told Moses that he was complying with his wife Zipporah rather than obeying Him (God)? The choice for Moses was life or death. Moses chose life, and fortunately His wife followed. But it was God first, spouse second.

11. Military?
12. Country?
13. Celebrity?
14. Anything we idolize and put in front of God is an “idol, and therefore a “fake god.”

B. What “god” are you worshipping that needs to be put away? /[pause](#)/

IV. INVITATION

A. In closing, Jesus said in *John 17:3*,

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

B. Do you know Jesus?

Do you have a personal relationship with the Father through the Son?

It's as easy as ABC:

Admitt– your sins have separated you from God.

(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)

(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.