

One God

Ephesians 4:6

Isaiah 43:9-12

Introduction: Everyone in the early church believed in the one God, though many of them had come out of idolatry where they had served many gods.

We must never fail to remember that God ***“alone is wise” (1 Tim. 1:17).***

However, there is not in everyone this knowledge ***(1 Cor. 8:4-6).*** There are also some ***“whose god is their belly” (Phil. 3:19).***

I. “As There Are Many Gods” (1 Cor. 8:5).

- A.** False concept of numerous gods has been prevalent for centuries.
 - 1.** Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans believed in many gods.
 - a.** Limited in their power and realm (Crocodile was the god of the Nile River).
 - b.** They were flawed and even petty in how they dealt with people.
 - c.** Each god required different sacrifices, priests, doctrines.
 - d.** Man could become a god, usually after their death.
 - 2.** Idolatry – use of images and idols to represent their gods.
 - a.** Nature and images of animals used ***(Rom. 1:22-23).***
 - b.** Bow down to, worship, and place before all else.
 - 3.** False gods includes other things.
 - a.** Covetousness ***(Col. 3:5).***
 - b.** Our gods and idols tend to be less rigid (Sports stars, movie stars, singers, etc.).
 - c.** Again our problem is not atheism but polytheism (too many gods).
- B.** Problems this creates.
 - 1.** False hope and belief system ***(1 Cor. 8:4-5).***
 - 2.** Different relationships – those serving other gods were considered your enemy (see this today with Muslims and Christianity).

II. Characteristics Of God.

- A.** Many words are used to describe God.
 - 1.** He is the God of love, peace, mercy, grace, hope.
 - 2.** He is faithful, wise, good; He cannot lie.
 - 3.** He has power; he is a jealous God.
- B.** Three words tell much about Him.
 - 1.** Omnipotent — all powerful ***(Lk. 1:37; Rev. 19:6).***
 - 2.** Omniscient — all wise ***(1 Tim. 1:17).***
 - 3.** Omnipresent — present everywhere at once ***(Psa. 139:7-10).***

- C. We can know God only as He has revealed Himself.
 - 1. The heavens declare the glory of God (**Psa. 19-1-4**).
 - 2. But the things of God must be revealed (**1 Cor. 2:11-13**).
- D. He is the source of all authority in religious practice (**Matt. 28:18; Eph. 4:6b**).

III. Our Relationship To God As Christians.

- A. We are His creation (**Acts 17:26**).
- B. He is the object of our worship (**Jn. 4:23-24**).
 - 1. Worship no other (**Acts 10:25-26; 14:13-15; Rev. 19:10**).
 - 2. Seriousness in worship.
- C. He is to be loved above all others (**Matt. 22:37**).
- D. He is the source of salvation (**Jn. 4:34; Lk. 19:10**).
- E. He will judge all (**Rom. 14:11-12 {re. Isa. 45:22-23}; Heb. 10:31**).

Conclusion: Do you love God? Are you keeping His commandments (**1 Jn. 5:3**). There is no greater expression of love for God than in obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. Why not do it now?