

Does believing wrong things about God mean someone is worshipping a different god? The Jewish god, a god without Jesus? The Muslim god, a god without a Son? The Mormon god, three gods? The Catholic god, an insufficient god? The Christian God.....The true Trinitarian God?

People want to be known and loved for who they are. God is the same. He wants to be known and loved for who He is. We would be frustrated if someone thought wrongly about us, made a judgment of us based upon an erroneous caricature, and then summarily dismissed us as a person.

God is a person, as well. He has all attributes of personhood. God is: living, personal, relational, good and loving. He is worthy of all worship.

Other gods compete for men's affection but God has commanded us to be loyal to Him alone (Ex 20:3).

Addressing the men of Athens the apostle Paul noticed that they were very religious--too religious, actually. They feared many gods (Ac 17:22). Along with all of their gods, they even had an "unknown god" just to be sure that they didn't leave any god that may exist out. Paul directed their attention to this God. He explained that this God created all the other gods and everything else and by the way--all those other gods did not exist.

Men have counterfeit gods, be they: sex, money, drugs, alcohol, work, comfort, beauty or family, etc.. Anything or anyone that comes between us and our God is an idol--a non-existent god which cannot save. Idolatry is spiritual harlotry--cosmic treason against the true and living God.

God demands that we have no other gods before him (Ex 34:14). He is jealous for us (Ex 34:14). He will have all of us or He will have none of us. God makes no room for other gods. He will not tolerate divided affections.

The Jews understood God to be one (Deut 6:4). What they did not fully understand was that God *is* one (Deut 6:4) but He is triune nature (God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit [Jn 14:26; Jn 15:26]). Muslims do not believe that God can become a man. Roman Catholics believe that God can be housed in a wafer, called down from heaven and re-sacrificed again. Mormons believe that Jesus is spirit brother Lucifer. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is the archangel, Michael.

What one believes about God matters because only the God of scripture can save (Ac 4:12). It is incumbent upon us to find out exactly who God is (Jer 29:13) and why he alone is worthy of worship (Rev. 5:9-14).

Of all of God's attributes, his primary attribute is one of holiness (Ps 99:9). He cannot look on sin (Hab 1:13). He will not allow any filthy thing to enter heaven to live with Him forever (Re 21:27). God judges sin because he is just (Deut 32:4). If God is not just, then He is not good (Re 15:3). His solution to men's sin was to put his Son of the

cross to pay the penalty for our sin (1 Pet. 1:18, 19). Christ's death satisfied God's wrath (Rom. 3:25, 26). When we trust his work to save us (Matt. 12:17–21), we can be seen by the Father as righteous though we have no righteousness of our own (2 Cor. 5:20, 21).

False gods cannot save. God mocks men who trust in them (Judg 10:14). Men construct gods made of wood or other materials and then carry them around. When they call out to their gods, they cannot save them. Our God carries us (Ps 54:4).

One's faith is only as good as the object in which he puts his faith. If the object cannot save, then his god is useless. If men could see the gods that they worship, they might reconsider giving them their allegiance. The sex goddess, Diana, for example was a hideous multi-breasted god that men worshipped. Many still worship her today. The gods of: sex, money, drugs or alcohol do not save. The gods of work, comfort, beauty or family do not save. Habits and hang-ups must not come before God. Neither possessions nor people should be adored before Him (Mt 10:37).

The apostle Paul praised the Thessalonians for putting away their idols to worship God alone (1 Thess 1:9). If we are to follow God, we must do the same. We turn from *something* to *someone*. God alone is able to save us from the wrath to come (1 Thess 1:10).

People who reject God often do not know how good He is (Ps 31:19). Others know He is good but they reject him preferring darkness to light because their deeds are evil (Jn 3:19). It would be foolish to give up the goodness of God for some early bauble (Gen. 25:29–34).

God is healthy. He will not impose himself on anyone. He simply asks us to consider who He really is (Isa 1:18). Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him (Ps 34:8).